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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat's 'Annual Message' to Palestinians

JN3112211889 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1930 GMT 31 Dec 89

["Annual message to the Palestinian people by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat on the 25th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution"; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Verily, we have granted thee a manifest victory: That God may forgive thee thy faults of the past and those to follow; fulfill His favor to thee; and guide thee on the straight way. [Koranic verses] God's good pleasure was on the believers when they swore fealty to thee under the tree: He knew what was in their hearts, and He sent down tranquillity to them; and He rewarded them with speedy victory. [Koranic verses] O sons of our great Palestinian people; O heroic fighters in the trenches of defense of the homeland, the people, and the revolution; O knights of the brave intifadah; O women, brave men, youths, and children in the homeland and the disapora; O citizens of the State of Palestine; O masses of our glorious Palestinian people: In the lives, marches, and histories of nations there are immortal occasions, great events, that have left their clear imprint, their deep impact on the lives of these nations, and opened another avenue for their future and fate—another way which the overwhelming majority had believed too difficult or even impossible when the first lights of that great event appeared. However, through faith, determination, sacrifice, and struggle, the event becomes a fact in the history of the nations.

Perhaps 25 years of the history of the Palestinian people and their honest struggle may be but a brief point in the accelerating and rushing history of mankind. But to those who lived through it, it certainly means a quarter-century, a full life, and a march for struggling generations of the Palestinian people, the heroes of the greatest epics fraught with bravery, virility, and comprehensive variety in the 20th century. It is the revolution of the impossible and the longest history in the modern age—the revolution of the cubs of the RPG and the heroes of the sacred stones, the revolution of the impossible which has become possible, and a fact that imposes itself on enemies before friends, the revolution of the fedayeen which surpasses time and repeats the cycle of history in the right direction, the revolution of the stones and the intifadah of the faithful people and the struggler masses who make miracles and inflame the globe. As a result, the popular intifadah erupted, followed by similar moves all over the world, raising victory signs with these sweeping masses to represent the will of the peoples and epitomize their conscience.

O my brothers and beloved ones: On this evening 25 years ago, our people's vanguards began. They were youths who believed in their God, Who guided their steps. They knocked on the doors of history and raised their heads to wrest freedom for our people. Thus, brave shots sounded on that evening, marking the start of the new dawn. At that time, the issue seemed to many people an adventure and a risk. But for the vanguards, who carried their souls on their palms, it seemed a cause to be realized in history and through the humility and faith of the revolutionaries. We confidently say that we have won the bet. We are God's soldiers, who are supported by God if they seek support. When we started 25 years ago, our weapons were belief in God and confidence in our struggling masses. Our people have always been the teachers of their leadership and have been able to take the initiative at the right time, protect their soil and freedom, and form the popular basis which is unconquered and on which the fedayeen vanguards relied when they started on that dark Arab night 25 years ago in order to initiate a new era and blaze the trail with their bodies and blood. Our people and revolutionaries were creating history and writing the legend of resistance and sacrifice from the Jordan Valley to al-Karamah, from Gaza to al-Shaqif, from Jerusalem to Sidon, from Golan to the canal, from Hebron to al-'Arqub, from Nabulus to al-Nabatiyah, from 'Ayn al-Hulwah to Shatila, from Verdin to Tunis, from the epic of participation in the October war in 1973 to the fierce battle in 1978, and in the legendary, miraculous epic in Beirut in 1982, where the Palestinian rifle and fighter fiercely defended and protected the future, dream, and the existence of their people, as well as the dignity of their nation. The enemy wanted to end the revolution and the PLO. But it was the longest Arab-Israeli war. As a result, the enemy was defeated and it is still defeated.

And moving from there to the double siege of Tripoli: Despite its bitterness, this siege exposed the conspiracy against the Palestinian cause, people, revolution, and Arab nation in all its dimensions. Those were 25 years of legendary steadfastness in the camps of Sabra, Shatila, Burj al-Barajinah, al-Baddawi, Nahr al-Barid, al-Rashidiyah, and 'Ayn al-Hulwah. We fought and are still fighting, refusing to lay down arms or to be dragged to the war of brothers and the plots of sectarian chieftains. Yes, we are refusing to be dragged to the war of brothers and the plots of sectarian chieftains. The revolution produced the waves of the first intifadah in 1986, proceeding to the wonderful steadfastness in southern Lebanon, fighting side by side with the nationalist and Islamic Lebanese forces, embodying the revolutionary will to cling to the principal goal, to the land that God blessed, the land from which the Prophet ascended to heaven, the birthplace of Christ, and the grave of the father of prophets, Abraham, may God's blessings and peace be upon them.

Those were 25 years full of fierce fighting, siege, confrontations, deportations, plots, attacks, wounds, and pains. But the predominant characteristic has always been a resolved steadfastness that crushed all plots and plotters. And the unbelievers plotted and planned, and God, too, planned, and the best of planners is God. [Koranic verse]

Those 25 years, my brothers, were smeared with the blood of the righteous martyrs, the most dearly beloved and sons of our people, who fell on our sacred soil and in exile and the diaspora so that the people can live and Palestine can shine. Those 25 years were full of the convoys of captives, detainees, wounded, and handicapped, which have always constituted an inexhaustible source of sacrifice and unmatched willingness to give and endure.

Those 25 years molded and rebuilt each and every one of us. They shaped the conscience and ideology of every man, woman, and child. They were full of moments of ebb and flow, moments of victory and hardship. But the march has always proceeded forward. Over those 25 years, there were years of great national uprising, years of hard labor, and years of fire and embers. They were the era of glory, pride, and national might; years of prosperity and brightness for our national project; years of progress for our people, who have an unconquerable determination and unwavering resolve to achieve their national inalienable rights, especially their rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

When the Palestinian revolution launched armed struggle as one of the most prominent manifestations of struggle, it knowledgeably practised the most efficient forms of struggle, a right stressed by international conventions to all peoples struggling for their freedom. By this, our revolution was invading the awareness of the world with the true picture of the Palestinian people, who are fighting for freedom, and adding by their achievements new dimensions for human struggle against Zionism, new and old colonialism, racial discrimination, injustice, coercion, and official organized terrorism.

Dear brothers, dignified masses of our nation: Not for one moment over the past 25 years has our pan-Arab affiliation faltered. Nor has it been shaken by any storms. We were and still are strong, especially whenever we feel we are singlehandedly doing battle on behalf our nation. We were and still are able to inspire confidence in the resources of our Arab nation and its struggling masses. We are now able to confirm confidence in the capabilities of our Arab nation and its struggling masses. Since our nationalist march set off it has been armed with profound faith and pan-Arab invincibility. Since the launch of the revolution we have been armed with profound faith and pan-Arab impregnability reflecting the Arab conscience. In the meantime, we have always been aware of our position in the epic of human struggle. We have prided ourselves on the fact that our revolution has left its clear imprint and etched itself in the memory of the human race. Our revolution has played and continues to play an illustrious role alongside all the free people and strugglers for freedom around the world. Hence, our revolution has a Palestinian face, an Arab heart, and a global dimension. Not only this, but we have confirmed our national independent decisionmaking. Remember this, my brothers, since you have lived it moment by moment with blood, sweat, and tears. We have consecrated our independent decisionmaking and our democracy under the most trying circumstances. It is the democracy of the jungle of guns, as you know, where democracy has always constituted the armor shielding our revolution, our people, and our march. It is the democracy that has been adorned with the gun, science, thought, and the pen. Therefore, the proclamation of our independence has consecrated these features, which figured in the declaration of our independence, as you know. They were also confirmed by the compatibility between the Palestinian reality and developments of the modern age. The credibility of our approach has been vindicated by developments. Also vindicated has been the soundness of our militant line and the correctness of our political program.

Dear brothers: We take pride in 25 years of political, scientific, cultural, and social achievements in the drive to safeguard the Palestinian national character as well as to protect our heritage and creed and to keep our people from being cast adrift. All projects and plans have aimed to liquidate our people and our very existence from the political and geographical map of the region. And yet, as you know, we have managed, with God's help, to survive and continue the jihad, carrying the torch giving expression to the free will and unshakable determination of a people that have resolved to live free and sovereign over their free, independent soil. On this 25th anniversary of our national revolution, we also celebrate 2 years of our blessed intifadah. Thanks be to God. On this revolutionary fire, we have also celebrated along with all the free souls of our Arab nation and in the world the 1st anniversary of the proclamation of independence of our state—the State of Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital.

The valiant, popular intifadah, with its pride and distinction, is providing the eloquent evidence that our revolutionary project has reached the acme of success. With the intifadah, the revolution has registered its success by upgrading itself from a revolutionary vanguard to an overwhelming act and a burning revolution of all the people.

With the intifadah, we have moved to the stage of the strategic offensive. We have imposed a more difficult battle on the occupiers and over the main arena of struggle on the soil of the homeland. The intifadah was the result of latent accumulation of the years of revolution. Many years of hard work had been building up, and revolutionary action, flowing in the veins of the homeland, had been changing, affecting, building, and accumulating [words indistinct] when the men, women, youths, and heroes took to the streets of our cities, villages, and camps, facing the enemy with their stones and songs. They were demonstrating how our contemporary revolution from its very beginning was able to embellish our people's national identity and reformulate the new birth and the well-defined independent national character. The generation born during the revolution is now grown up and is creating the intifadah. The generations are rushing to the march of the struggle and are rallying around the banner, repeating the poem of our poet Mu'in [Bsaysu]: If I fall, O comrade-in-arms, take my place and raise high my rifle; do not be afraid of my bleeding wounds. I have not died, I am still urging you behind my rifle.

These are our new generals; the generals of the sacred stones are affirming this continuation and full unity between the two wings of the revolutionary process. They are united with the RPG children in the camps of steadfastness and heroism in Lebanon and in the southern Lebanese region. They are united with the masses which are daily recording epics of heroism in all the villages, cities, and camps of the West Bank and Gaza, in Jerusalem, Gaza, Nabulus, Khan Yunus, Janin, Hebron, al-Am'ari, al-Shuwykh, Bayta, Rafah, Ramallah, al-Birah, Qalqilyah, Jabaliyah, al-Jalazun, Balatah, Jaba', al-Khadr, Kafr Malik, 'Askar, al-Shati', Bethlehem, Bayt Jala, Bayt Sahur, Bayt Fajjar, Bi'r Zayt, Bi'r Hanun, Bayt Ula, Bayt Ummar, Bayt Jala, Nahhalin, Jericho, Tulkarm, Qabatiyah, al-Yamun, Huwarah, Burqah, Sa'ir, Ya'bad, Tubas, Halhul, Bani Na'im, Dura, al- Duhayshah, Yatta, central camps, Silwad, Dayr Jarir, al-Tayyibah, al-'Arrub, Qalandiyah, Abu-Dis, Baytuniyah, Yatta, 'Asirah, Bayt Furik, Salfit, Safa, 'Abasan, Battir, 'Ammar, Bani Suhaylah, Tannun, Burin, Tarqumiyah, Maysalun, Kafr Qaddum, 'Azzun, 'Attil, Zayta, Burqa'ah, al-Qurradah, Dayr al-Balah, Bal'ah, and 'Anabta.

I may have forgotten some other names but you are in my conscience, in my heart, in my mind. All of these are united with the Beirut epic and with the steadfastness of their brethren in the diaspora and in the miraculous martyrdom in Tal al-Za'tar, Sabra, and Shatila. All of them are making possible this absolute integration of our revolution and its ability to break all the walls and barriers and to fuse all of our people everywhere in the crucible of the national struggle under the PLO leadership. It is the crucible of the firm unity of all of our people inside and outside the occupied territory; the unity and cohesion among our political organizations, popular bodies and trade unions, among all of our people—men, women, old men, and children. They are in the same ranks, working as one unit.

God loves those who fight in his cause together like a firm wall. From the birth of the revolution to the birth of the intifadah. It was a triumphant march of a courageous people. Between the two, generations moved, wave after wave, for the sake of a free homeland for a free people. Between the two, there is a unique tale of deep human struggle. Our banners are fluttering in the sky, beginning the era of independence. Now, 25 years from that historic night, which inaugurated the new Palestinian era and broke the silence in the face of the whole world, our people are proud of their unity within the PLO framework. The Palestinian state is recognized by more than 115 states. Our people's national rights are recognized by all the members of the international community and the UN member states, with the exception of those who insist on challenging history in Washington and Tel Aviv.

If someone exists on the world political map, he will inevitably exist on the geographic map. It is a matter of time, no more and no less. Hence our great appreciation for the positive stands of our friends who support us, our people, and our just cause. Our friends in the African, Islamic, and nonaligned states and their Belgrade declaration, the friedly Soviet Union and the socialist states and their Bucharest declaration, the EC states and their declarations in Madrid and Strasbourg, the Scandinavian states and their foreign ministers' statement, the Vatican and the great principled stand of his holiness the pope, Japan and its new stand; friendly China and its firm stand. Even the states that had been all-out supporters of Israel have changed their stands in the interest of our just cause.

Every day we gain a new position, and our faith increases in the inevitability of victory. Our enemies' isolation is also being intensified. They are swimming against the current of history and we are rewriting history with bright letters in the interest of peoples. Our people's intifadah has become an example for all peoples who aspire to a better life, to freedom and democracy, and against injustice, coercion, Zionism, colonialism, and racial discrimination. Is what is happening in several European states a coincidence? Is it also a coincidence that a friendly visitor comes to our land, namely Bishop Tutu, as a representative of the friendly South African people to weave this fabric of cohesion with our Palestinian people in their intifadah against the fascist twins, Israel and the Pretoria government? Of course, it is not a coincidence. Our people will triumph just as the Namibian people triumphed. The South African people will also triumph just as the Namibian people did. We are in one trench with all the honest, free, and struggling peoples in the whole world.

O my brothers, beloved ones, and revolutionary strugglers, we are standing these days at the threshold of freedom, knocking at its door with confident hands. Our dreams are coming true. Independence is within our reach and a stone's throw away from our combat trenches now that the Palestinian phoenix emerged from fire and ashes stronger, more capable, and more forceful. Our heroic Palestinian people are the greatest teacher; they established this impregnable fortress for all revolutions and uprisings on our land. Since the sacrifices of prophet Abraham for the sake of his son Isma'il, the sacrifices of Jesus Christ for the sake of humanity, the sacrifices of Jerusalem, the first Christians martyrs, the martyrs of Arabism and Islam, and the martyrs of the revolution and the blessed intifadah, our people have continued to be faithful to their heritage and ideology. Our masses will continue to be the custodians of Jerusalem and of the cradle of Jesus Christ. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We will, without doubt, help our apostles and those who believe, both in this world's life and on the day when the witnesses will stand forth. [Koranic verses]

O my people, all my people, O strugglers in all positions, O masses of our Palestinian people and the strugglers of our Arab nation: As you know, we have put forth the Palestinian peace initiative, which was adopted by the Arab summit and supported by the international community and the United Nations. We have not made this initiative from a weak position. Let everyone hear me, this initiative is not from a weak position; we have discerned international developments, international detente, and developments in the international arena. This discernment was accurate and pure. We discerned the developments that will take place in the world. We made a courageous initiative to achieve peace on the land of peace, the land of Palestine. However, regrettably, the Israeli leaders are still misled and are insisting on their stupidity. What can I do? They are stupid. They are like the ostrich, they cannot see the changes in the world. They are continuing with their stupidity and with their occupation of our land. They are determined to liquidate our people and cause, depending—what are they depending on? Is it on their power? No, not on their power, but on this unlimited support from the U.S. Administration. It is political, financial, economic, and moral support; all forms of support, you know this, my brothers. This has increased their arrogance and determination to escalate their crimes, tyranny, repression, terrorism, and challenge of the international will. They ignore the facts and lessons of history. They also ignore the changes and developments that are taking place in the world.

On this anniversary, I tell all the Israelis: Come, let us make peace, away from the closed mentality governing this inflexible leadership which sees nothing beyond its nose and which refuses to understand that the sun cannot be covered by the fingers of one's hand and that facts cannot be concealed by merely ignoring or pretending to ignore them. I tell the Israelis: Do not listen to the war merchants who live off the peoples' blood, because the alternative to peace is war. Do not forget that there is an arms limitation throughout the world, except for the Middle East, where various missiles have appeared, including the new Iraqi missiles which have changed the strategic situation. You know these Iraqi missiles have changed the strategic situation in favor of our Arab nation. In this region, all types of weapons—ballistic, nuclear, and chemical—are proliferating. What does a war mean except total destruction if it is allowed to start in this region? Then, remorse will be of no use. The establishment of peace deserves the toil, effort, and sacrifices made for peace for the sake of our and your children. Glory to God in heavens and may peace and happiness prevail on earth.

Hence, brothers, we dealt with all proposed initiatives, proceeding from our eagerness to boost the march of a just solution through a UN-sponsored international conference to be attended by the UN Security Council's permanent member states and all the parties to the dispute, including the PLO and the Israeli Government. This is in order to establish our Palestinian people's national rights in accordance with the resolutions and agreements reached by the Palestine National Council and the Arab summits. Heading these rights is the establishment of our independent Palestinian state on our national Palestinian soil on the basis of international resolutions and international legitimacy. Based on these constants, the PLO Central Council stressed and approved the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue founded on our declared principles as a preparatory step for an international peace conference. Any attempt to ignore or circumvent our constants will only be a waste of time and of available peace opportunities. Moreover, such attempts will only further inflame the intifadah which, God willing, will continue wave after wave until the last Israeli soldier is evacuated from our holy land and the Palestinian flag is hoisted over the hills, walls, and minarets of Jerusalem, God willing.

We know that our path is difficult and thorny and that enemies are lying in wait. Enemies and, alas, even some friends and brothers continue their suspect attempts to obliterate and liquidate our cause so a to keep our people in diaspora. As for the occupied land, they, at best, plan for closed bantustans for the overpopulated areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in order to send out laborers, exactly as in South Africa.

However, let everybody know—I say this to every Palestinian child and woman as well—that there will be no peace or solution unless our national rights are approved, as done by international legitimacy and international resolutions. There will be no peace or solution unless approved by the Palestinians. There will be no stability without a Palestinian state. Let everybody know that the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, cannot be ignored, and that our national rights cannot be circumvented because we have become a genuine part of the new age which has begun to influence the entire world. If we were made to be absent from Yalta—listen to me, you must understand this, brothers—and paid for that, as you know, in homeland, blood, souls, and agonies, we were strongly present in Malta thanks to this blessed intifadah. Our cause was discussed, regardless of the time and space given to us in comparison with the strategic issues the two superpowers talked about. That will have important results concerning our cause—results that must be dealt with. The same thing happened in the recent Euro-Arab meeting attended by King Hassan and President Mitterrand. It is the new unified, gigantic Europe, which must be dealt with.

Brothers: On this occasion, we have a message to address to our Arab nation's masses and states. We would like to convey to them the following message: The Malta summit has ushered in a new world era. Unless we unify our stands and close our ranks, we will pay the price once again for the Malta summit, just as we, the Arab nation, paid a price for the Yalta summit and before that for the Sykes-Picot agreement. Do you hear me? Shall I repeat what I have just said? We, as an Arab nation, will pay the price for the Malta summit just as we previously paid the price for the understanding reached at the Yalta summit and the understanding contained in the Sykes-Picot agreement. Let God be my witness that I informed those concerned of this.

O sons of our great people; o sons of the revolution generation, the independence generation; o masses of our great Arab nation: On these immortal days, we remember with reverence and high esteem the beloved martyrs whose memory is always vivid in our hearts and minds. We remember the beloved Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], Abu-al-Walid [Sa'd Sayil], Abu-Yusuf al-Najjar [Muhammad Yusuf al-Najjar], Kamal 'Adwan, Abu-'Ali Iyad, Abu-Sabri [Mamduh Sabri Saydam], Majid Abu-Sharar, 'Abd-al-Fattah Hammud, Kamal Nasir, Abu-Hasan Salamah ['Ali Hasan Salamah], Ghassan Kanafani, Hamdi, Abu-Ghazalah, Marwan, Nazzal, Taha, and many others of those beloved martyrs. We also remember thousands of the courageous people who have fallen in the battle for freedom and say: Peace be upon your souls, peace be upon you who dwell among the firm believers and martyrs. We will honor the pledge and the oath. We pledge to you that we will continue the struggle displaying the same resolve, faith, determination, and persistence which were some of your distinctive traits. Your souls will remain glowing beacons in the memory of your people and nation. You will remain examples to be emulated by all the honorable and free of the world.

Dear beloved brothers: On this immortal day, we send the greetings of struggle to our knights, the forgers of the epic of steadfastness in jails, our heroic prisoners and detained. We would like to convey our greetings to you, the courageous prisoners detained in Ansar 3, Junayd, Gaza, Nafhah, Beersheba, Ashqelon, al-Maskubiyah, Nabulus, Hebron, Ramla, al-Damun, Shattah, Kefar Yona, Janin and other areas. Your people hold you in high esteem. You are the example to be emulated. Glory belongs to you while you are imposing your laws and will, the will to revolt against detention centers. Pride belongs to you, as you turned prisons into schools for cadres and command centers for the masses in their blessed intifadah.

On this immortal day, we send greetings to our valiant wounded. Greetings of affection to the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah, to the strike forces, to the popular committees, to mass structures, to charity committees, to union councils, to all of those persecuted, and to the popular army. We also would like to send our greetings to the courageous Palestinian mothers and fathers, and also to every young man, young woman, boy, and girl, as they are the heroes who are creating a bright and glowing picture of our people's unity and future—the unity embracing all factions: Fatah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Hamas, the Arab Liberation Front, the Palestine Popular Struggle Front, the Palestine Liberation Front, the Communist Party, [Islamic] Jihad, and all other strugglers and mujahidin who become diffused in the melting pot of the blessed intifadah and within the overpowering popular upsurges of revolution.

O sons of the State of Palestine; O sons of the era of the revolution and intifadah; O masses of our great Arab nation: On these days while we are standing at the threshold of victory, the revolution is at its strongest. Its determination, will, faith, and firmness are at their best. We are waging the battle of the last quarter of the hour on the path of freedom. This phase is the most difficult phase in the battle. It is a fierce one. However, it is not that hard for us. We are waging this battle armed with our faith, our resolve, our national unity, our genuine struggle and jihad, and our national program, displaying a sense of sacrifice, awareness, perception, optimism, and hope.

O masses of our Arab nation: This intifadah is one of the most pure and chaste phenomena produced by this nation. The Palestinians with their bare chests and armed with sacred stones are facing the Israeli-U.S. tanks and guns. Faith and resolve are confronting repression and terrorism. There must be a way to support this intifadah through deeds and not words only, through displaying generosity rather than miserliness and stinginess.

Despite all this, I pledge to you, on behalf of every child, every woman, and every man, that the intifadah will continue regardless of all the difficulties, obstacles, and pains entailed, as it is the march vindicating right, justice, and sacrifice. Self-sacrifice is the most sublime form of generosity. O sons of the State of Palestine; O masses of our Arab nation: While bidding farewell to our 25th year, we are entering a new one. This new year is the year of glory and victory, the year of uncompromising steadfastness and unmistakably inevitable victory. It is the year of consecrating the people's authority and enhancing national unity. It is the year of beginning the harvest, of reaping the fruits of the revolution, steadfastness, and intifadah. Bolster your intifadah and display further steadfastness and further popular revolution. Let more human waves of our militant masses move from the phase of launching the revolution into the intifadah, and then into independence which will give us our state, our Palestinian state. The State of Palestine is a stone's throw away. They see it as as a remote possibility. Yet, we see it quite near; and we are the ones telling the truth. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Say: O God! Lord of power and rule, Thou givest power to whom Thou pleasest, and Thou strippest off power from whom Thou pleasest; Thou endurest with honor whom Thou pleasest, and Thou bringest low whom Thou pleasest: In Thy hand is all good, verily over all things Thou hast power. [Koranic verse] And another favor will He bestow, which ye do love—help from God and a speedy victory. [Koranic verse] It is a revolution until victory.

'Arafat Condemns U.S. Attempts To Quell Intifadah

JN0201193290 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] In a news conference at his residence in Baghdad last Sunday [31 December] attended by Arab and foreign correspondents, brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine, asserted that the popular, blessed Palestinian intifadah has become an illustrious Palestinian fact which neither the U.S. Administration nor the Shamir government can exterminate. Nor can its significance as an event that imposed itself on the international arena be belittled.

At the outset, brother Abu-'Ammar said that despite all the U.S. attempts to give more time to the Israeli Government in the hopes of destroying the intifadah, the days and the development of events have shown the futility of those attempts. At the same time, these incidents and developments confirm that the intifadah has become ingrained in the conscience and beliefs of our people.

He added: The attempts by the U.S. Administration and the Shamir government aimed at belittling the importance of the intifadah have come to no avail. For the intifadah has succeeded in demonstrating itself, and is still imposing itself on the international arena. What has happened in the last 72 hours, despite the changes in East Europe, proves that the Palestinian intifadah has dominated world reports. The demonstrations that occurred in the city of Nabulus the day before yesterday—when all of Nabulus took to the streets in an unprecedented demonstration—and also the international demonstration that took place in occupied Jerusalem—the demonstrations in which more than 30,000 people, including 9,000 women consisting of friends coming from different parts of the world, shouting that the year 1990 is the year of peace—confirm that the intifadah is the brightest of all facts. Neither the U.S. Administration nor the Shamir government can conceal this intifadah, because it is impossible to hide the sun with the fingers.

Brother leader President Abu-'Ammar stated that the international march of peace has further unmasked the ugly face of the Shamir government, which did not show any respect to those visitors who came to declare their solidarity with the peace march in Palestine. Neither did it respect their political status in their own countries when it attacked them by firing live, plastic, and rubber bullets, leading to the wounding of dozens, in addition to the dozens of injuries sustained among the ranks of other participants who belong to the Israeli peace movement.

Brother Abu-'Ammar wondered: Has President Bush been informed of these ugly pictures of brutal assaults carried out by the Shamir government against the international march? And how did he manage to ignore them while not ignoring the incident of a student being attacked in China, Berlin, or a soldier in Panama? Or do liberties exist everywhere except in Palestine? And is the Israeli Government and its Army allowed to perpetrate all these brutal crimes depending on the protection of the U.S. Administration? Furthermore, are U.S. Congressmen ignorant of the Israeli killing, oppression, and suppression being perpetrated against our people, and, ultimately, against the people who advocate peace from Europe, America, and even the Israelis?

Brother leader Abu-'Ammar emphasized: We should know that Shamir, along with the Israeli leadership, is trying to turn a blind eye to the facts of this age and the international changes. Are they still determined to occupy our land, supported by the U.S. Administration in various ways and means? But ultimately, the torrent of the people will sweep away everything. What happened in Namibia will, sooner or later, be duplicated in Palestine, whether Shamir likes it or not; whether the U.S. Administration supports this or objects to it. In this regard, brother Abu-'Ammar asked: Despite all the U.S. backing, how long will Shamir go on in his challenge to the will of the international community? He added: They are betting on the termination of the intifadah. We are in its 3d year; it is more powerful, more solid, and more determined to attain its goals, which it will achieve, with God's assistance.

Brother Abu-'Ammar asserted that supporting the intifadah is a sacred duty laid on every Arab; and that this support should be manifested in deed, not word; in generosity, not in parsimony and negligence.

On the events witnessed in East Europe, brother leader President Abu-'Ammar said that changes in East Europe will ultimately reflect positively on the struggle of our people against oppression and occupation. Moreover, the people of our age regard it as an age of openness, liberty, and self-determination, especially since the Palestinian intifadah has left clear imprints on incidents that have taken place in the remotest parts of the world.

In conclusion, brother Abu-'Ammar asserted that Kissinger's disciples in the U.S. Administration are still continuing a role obstructive to the peace process in the Middle East, and are contradicting themselves and the majority of the American people despite the fact that a recent opinion poll carried out in some major American areas indicated that 86 percent of them favor a just solution, a just peace, and the establishement of an independednt Palestinian state. Can the U.S. Administration not see this poll and its results?

Egypt

Officials, Papers View Renewed Ties With Syria

'Abd-al-Majid Comments

NC3012074089 Cairo MENA in English 0710 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, Dec 30 (MENA)—[Passage omitted] Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid announced in Alexandria University yesterday that the restoration of relations between Egypt and Syria is a strength to the Arabs, and not aimed against anybody as claimed by Israel. What is important, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said, is that Israel does not threaten either Egypt or Syria, Cairo press reported.

He added that Egypt works diligently to avert an arms race in the Middle East region and to get a UN resolution declaring the Middle East a nuclear arms free zone.

He affirmed that Egypt's strategy is based on peace, stability, and development. What is required now is an Israeli vision encompassing the these three goals. On this basis Egypt seeks to convene the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

On Egypt's relations with Libya, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said they are progressing in response to the will of the two peoples.

He said Egypt's relations with the Soviet Union are based on mutual respect, non-interference in the internal affairs and common interests, the papers reported.

People's Assembly Welcomes Ties

NC3012150089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1328 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 30 Dec (MENA)—The People's Assembly issued a statement today welcoming the resumption of the Egyptian-Syrian relations. The statement described this step as an "important political achievement for the Arab nation."

The assembly members expressed their belief that this political achievement is bound to bring the Arab world closer to realizing its goals. On this occasion, the assembly members congratulated President Mubarak and expressed their appreciation for his wise policy that aims to unify the Arab nation and [word indistinct].

Speaking at the beginning of the assembly session at noon today, Peoples Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub emphasized that the resumption of ties between sisterly Egypt and Syria is an important step toward closing Arab ranks. He noted respect that Egypt and Syria have played a complementary role throughout the history of Arabism and Islam. He added that we feel optimistic about the resumption of ties and hope it is a good omen for the future of the Arab nation.

The assembly speaker pointed out in his speech that the policy of long patience pursued by Egypt under President Mubarak has borne fruit in unifying the Arab world and closing the Arab ranks.

Dr Muhammad Hassan al-Zayyat, chairman of the People's Assembly Arab affairs committee, spoke during the session on behalf of the National Democratic Party [NDP] deputies. He pointed out that following this wise decision to resume Egyptian-Syrian relations, Egypt now has diplomatic relations with all the Arab countries [as received], and the Arab states have come closer to achieving their aspirations for integration. Dr al-Zayyat stressed the importance of common inter-Arab action in view of the current international developments and called on the Arabs to adopt a single stand and to cooperate in order to serve the common Arab interests.

Concluding his speech, Dr al-Zayyat welcomed the Egyptian-Syrian rapport in the name of the NDP as well as the Arab affairs committee. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Welcomes Relations

NC3012195989 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] The cabinet stressed in a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi today that the resumption of Egyptian-Syrian relations is a positive step that will have an important impact on the common Arab acton and is in line with the historic relations between the two fraternal peoples.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said the cabinet members reviewed a report submitted by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on his visit to Baghdad and the message he conveyed to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn from President Husni Mubarak. The message confirms the close coordination and cooperation in all fields between the two sisterly countries. The report noted the positive steps made by Iraq to increase the transfer of the remittances of the Egyptian workers there from $30 to $45 million per month as of January, thus underscoring Iraq's eagerness to improve the conditions of the Egyptian laborers.

The cabinet also reviewed the developments in the exchanges regarding the Palestinian issue and the recent visit to Egypt by the Palestinian president. Dr 'Abd-al-Majid briefed the cabinet members on the Arab-European dialogue conference that was held in Paris, its positive impact at the Arab and international levels, the coordination made during the conference with the delegates of the fraternal Arab countries, and the reference made in the conference report to Egypt's position and Mubarak's policy, which led to the success of this dialogue at this stage of important and rapid international changes.

Regarding the economy, Al-Sharif said the cabinet reviewed a report on the loans and grants to finance a number of industrial and electrical projects in conjunction with the EC, France, FRG, Canada, and the United

States and another report on the ongoing talks with the IMF. The cabinet also discussed the proposed measures to narrow the gap between expenditures and domestic resources with a view to streamlining the balance of payments, decreasing the current deficit, cutting the commodity imports, and increasing exports. The cabinet reviewed another report by the economy minister on the performance under the free banking system and the increase in foreign currency revenues from this system this year in comparison with 1987-88.

The cabinet discussed a report by the interior minister on the recommendations of the Arab interior ministers' conference with respect to the inter-Arab security cooperation in the fields of combating terrorism, drugs, and organized crime. The cabinet stressed the need to preserve stability as a prerequisite to comprehensive development, and to exert the utmost efforts to tackle the issue of narcotics. The cabinet emphasized the need to immediately confront all attempts to undermine the security of the homeland or the citizens or to carry out actions in violation of the law by the various extremist members.

The cabinet members also discussed the availability of the necessary supplies from the basic commodities until the end of 1990. The cabinet approved a law organizing maritime trade that contains provisions for the insurance and safety of the ships and the settlements of the disputes arising from accidents.

Paper Comments on Rapprochement

NC2712112389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2315 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 26 Dec (MENA)—AL-AHRAM asserts that the meetings between Egyptian and Syrian leaders herald quick action to put matters right after a long period of aimlessness. It says that rapprochement and contacts are expected to occur with a rapidity that will compensate by effort and action for the long estrangement which has ended with the return of amity.

In an editorial appearing in Wednesday's edition, the paper notes that this rapprochement is receiving tremendous popular response and is a true reflection in the current circumstances of mutual sentiments which have been concealed for various reasons. It points out that the political leaders have properly assessed the situation and brought down the barriers which were bound to fall, sooner or later, under popular pressure.

AL-AHRAM affirms that Egyptian-Syrian contacts bolster general Arab concord and are not directed against anyone. It says that it is a general policy that arranges inter-Arab relations in a manner properly reflecting inter-Arab rapport from the ocean to the gulf. The paper declares that this rapport does not merely come from the natural factors linking Arab peoples but is also a prompt response to the need to form groups in an age of civilized [word indistinct] among meeting giants.

In conclusion, the paper refers to past and recent lessons which prove that the resurgence and decline of the Arab world began with Egypt and Syria and then spread through the region. It notes that while Iraq is the gateway to the east, Syria is the gateway to the north, and Egypt is the gateway to the south. Consequently, Egyptian-Syrian accord is for the good of all Arabs.

Commentary Lauds Renewed Ties

NC2812203989 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1840 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Bahiy al-Din Shu'ayb commentary from the "Talking Newspaper Program"]

[Text] It is indisputable that the restoration of Egyptian-Syrian relations has filled the hearts of many with hope and optimism in the midst of the thundering deluge of local and international events. In fact, Arab people view Egyptian-Syrian relations differently from other relations. Throughout time Egyptian-Syrian relations have been distinguished by their own special feature and luster. If certain circumstances have strained these relations for over 12 years, they have not affected the feeling of amity and friendship between the two countries.

History is full of endless examples of states whose long and historic relations were disrupted and marred forever by one single incident. This is because these relations always lacked warmth, spiritual harmony, a common futuristic outlook, and a common stand against tyranny, occupation, and hostile designs. For all of these reasons, Egyptian-Syrian relations, even during the peak of the political differences between the two countries, were always very deep, enjoying a unique status that raised them above all temporary disagreements.

Egypt restored relations with several Arab states. This restoration was received with joy and optimism but was within the framework of true Arab integration and without causing others to speculate about the future course of events. This is different from when Egyptian-Syrian relations were restored. As soon as the resumption of these relations was announced, political and information quarters around the world began to analyze the significance of this event and its impact on the struggle in the region, on the relations among the parties to the struggle, be they Arab and non-Arab, and on the general policy of the Arab world.

These quarters have begun to analyze every bit and piece in these relations and their impact on Israel, the United States, Lebanon, Iraq, and the PLO. Analysis has begun to take the form of question marks because many have no ready answers to all the questions. This is specifically what we characterized as the special and distiguished relations between Egypt and Syria.

If we consider 1989 the year of Arab reconciliations which crystallized in the Casablanca summit, there is no doubt that these reconciliations have reached their desired result in the restoration of Egyptian-Syrian relations. With this step the Arab nation has gathered its ranks after years of separation and division. Here we must sincerely salute the Egyptian political leadership under President Mubarak, who on his first day in office declared that his strategic aim was to restore Arab relations to their previous stage. For this reason, his first political guideline was that Egypt should refrain, no matter what, from answering any information campaign against it because Egypt carries only love and amity for all the Arab states. If there are differences in political views, quiet dialogue will eventually return matters to their normal course. President Mubarak has succeeded in his philosophy and 1989 has become the year of Arab reconcilitations.

Columnist Cautions Against Ties

JN3012194389 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 29 Dec 89 p 12

["Dividing lines" column by Samir Rajab]

[Text] I do not agree with the opinion that Egypt has opened its heart to mediation between itself and Syria with the objective of facilitating the transfer of the Arab League headquarters to Cairo. I also do not agree with the view that the restoration of relations between the two countries will lead to one side being preeminent over the other. I do not at all agree with those who claim that because Syria needs to reinforce its position in Lebanon it has sought this official reconciliation.

I personally believe that Egypt and Syria are bound by joint interests and objectives, regardless of the mistakes that were made over the past 11 years. Egypt is struggling firmly to terminate the Israeli occupation of Arab territories in a manner that will guarantee the Palestinian people's right to self-determination; I do not believe that Syria wants anything other than this.

Let us admit that political calculations differ from time to time, and what was rejected in the past might be acceptable today, for no reason other than that the world is changing, and that "balances" are calculated in accordance with changing standards.

When Egypt decided to raise the banners of peace, it did not lock itself up behind closed doors. In fact, it gave all the Arab states the option to raise these banners along with it. At the same time, it did not want to impose its views on anyone or to force any side to follow a path not to its liking.

The truth is that practical experience has proved that what Egypt has done was the best option. Nevertheless, Egypt did not at all try to blame any brother or friend out of its belief that pan-Arab objectives should be above all other considerations.

To be fair, under the most difficult circumstances and at the most complicated stages of the crisis, Egyptian diplomacy acted responsibly. Praise be to God, Cairo did not use improper words against anyone, nor did it insult or accuse anyone. This is because one of our most important characteristics as a people is that we do not burn all our bridges. Perhaps President Husni Mubarak's stand at the Islamic summit conference in Kuwait in January 1987 is the best proof and the most eloquent expression of this. He considered his meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad natural and inevitable because it was a meeting between friends, comrades-in-arms, and leaders of two neighboring states that once were bound together with the firmest and dearest of ties.

Moreover, the whole world is witness that President Mubarak's stand at the Arab summit in Casablanca in May this year was unchanging. The halls of the summit were witness to President Mubarak's sincere feelings toward his colleague and friend, Hafiz al-Asad.

For their part, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and his aides have in their hearts a special appreciation and an unlimited respect for President Mubarak and a strong conviction that establishing bridges of cooperation and amity with him will achieve a great deal for the Arab nation.

In light of this, I say that the restoration of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Syria is a natural matter that we should void of any personal whims or inclinations. We must save these relations from any interpretations subject to right or wrong, because first and foremost, they are fateful relations.

Qatari Television Interviews Mubarak on Relations

NC3012202789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1845 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 30 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has asserted that Egyptian-Qatari relations are strong and based on reality and objectivity. He described Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani as one of the best leaders—frank and logical in outlook, and fully aware of the political situation, both in the Arab nation and the world.

In an interview with Qatari television to be broadcast tomorrow, Sunday [31 December], President Mubarak said: His Highness Shaykh Khalifah is an old friend with whom I have developed a relationship of mututal confidence. I have met with him several times since 1975, when I was vice president, and we got along very well.

President Mubarak remarked that during his meetings with Shaykh Khalifah, he sensed his broadmindedness and his awareness of world problems and their effects on the Arab nation.

On his assessment of the development of Arab relations so far, President Mubarak said the strength of any grouping depends primarily on the national solidarity within that grouping. The Arab nation is much better now than before. However, he said, certain differences still persist among Arab states and weaken Arabs.

The president noted that Arab solidarity is vital for facing world groups in the coming stage. He said: Arab cooperation in several fields is very important. Let us look at the expected European unity in 1992, when Eastern Europe will be open to Western Europe. They will both form a unified entity which guides Europe at all levels, particularly in the field of technology. The president asked: Where do we stand in the world map? Do we face the future with disintegration and lack of cooperation, or with cooperation in various fields?

The president said: There is an urgent need for cooperation at this present stage and in the future. We are much better off than we have ever been. However, we need more cooperation. We must remove Arab differences, like those between Iraq and Syria, and we must resolve the Lebanese and the Palestinian problems.

Touching on the features of the Egyptian policy during his reign and the possibility of achieving better standards to face the challenges, the president said: Since taking office, I have been pursuing a different policy. I do not criticize my predecessors who lived under different circumstances, but I carry on with the march.

The president added: We have restored our lands and Egypt is now pursuing a policy of self-reconstruction. Our major principle is not to abandon the Arab nation. He noted in this connection that Egypt adopts the Palestinian cause in coordination with the Palestinians, because they cannot speak on their behalf. We also contribute as much as we can to resolving the Lebanese problem and to bolstering Arab-African and Arab-European cooperation, he said.

President Mubarak said: We are urging all parties concerned, including Syria and Libya, to participate in meetings. Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi used to abstain from attending meetings. We convinced him that Arab involvement in such meetings is in our favor, because the world would forget us if we did not attend.

The president said there is constant progress. We must get on the boat, otherwise we will not be able to catch up with the world that is taking rapid and giant steps at the political, economic, and all other levels. We can make contributions and cooperate in all these fields.

On the role which groupings like the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab Cooperation Council, and the Arab Maghreb Union can play to achieve Arab unity, President Mubarak asserted that all of these are small groupings under the Arab League umbrella. He stressed the need for coordination and cooperation among these groupings to serve the interests and the unity of the Arab nation.

In this regard, the president explained that the Arab unity he is talking about does not mean one state and one president, but a united Arab nation cooperating in the various fields to serve the nation's higher interests.

The president emphasized that the members of Arab groupings must maintain continuous consultations, because every grouping has certain resources which complement those in the other. If a realistic and objective cooperation is established among these groupings, they will have served the interests of the Arab nation and achieved the desired Arab unity, he said.

On the date of his meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and what he expects after the restoration of Syrian-Egyptian relations, President Mubarak said: The Syrian interior minister paid us a visit and President Hafiz al-Asad gave a very positive interview to Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS. Hence, I telephoned President al-Asad and sent Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif to Damascus. Two days later Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam visited Egypt and we agreed to resume relations. Therefore, we can meet any time, anywhere, without any problem.

The president said: I met President al-Asad in Casablanca, though we had no relations at that time. The Arab nation is in favor of our meeting.

President Mubarak asserted that Egypt does not work with any state against another. In other words, he said, our relations with Syria are not addressed against Iraq , contrary to what some people think. The Iraqis are brothers with whom we are linked with very strong ties. My relations with President Saddam Husayn are excellent. There might have been a certain problem like that pertaining to Egyptian labor in Iraq. However, he said, this is just a tempest in a teapot which can never mar our relations.

The president added: Blood brothers often have their differences. However, these differences never develop into a rift. I discussed this issue with President Saddam Husayn in a practical manner at his initiative.

The president concluded that the relations between Egypt and Syria are not meant to be against any other state. It is not one of my principles to strike one state with another, he stressed.

Sudan's Al-Bashir Invites Mubarak To Visit

NC3012113189 Paris AFP in English 1121 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, Dec 30 (AFP)—Egypt's President Husni Mubarak will visit Sudan this weekend to attend celebrations of the 34th anniversary of independence, a Cairo daily said Saturday in a report officials here refused to confirm.

The independent AL-JUMHURIYAH (THE REPUBLIC) said that Mr Mubarak had been invited by the head of Sudan's military junta General 'Umar al-Bashir and would leave Saturday or Sunday. But officials in the president's office, questioned by AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, would neither confirm nor deny the report.

Observers said that if Mr Mubarak did go, the trip would constitute part of his efforts to promote negotiations here between the junta and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), fighting in the south of Sudan.

AL-JUMHURIYAH said a Sudanese "reconciliation conference" should be held in the Egyptian capital at the end of January. Mr Mubarak is currently chairman of the pan-African Organization of African Unity (OAU).

Close historical ties apart, Egypt has a major strategic interests in its huge neighbour to the south, as Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid reminded a forum at Alexandria University on Friday.

Fighting in southern Sudan had for three years blocked work on the Jonglei Canal, aimed at short-cutting a vast bend in the White Nile between Jonglei, north of the far south capital Juba, and another major town, Malakal, Mr 'Abd-al-Majid said. If the project had been completed as planned in 1985, it would have provided Egypt and Sudan with a further three billion cubic metres a year of currently wasted water, press reports Saturday quoted the minister as saying.

Egypt, which is totally dependent on Nile waters, has suffered over the past two years from low rainfall in the Ethiopian highlands where the Blue Nile flows. Water reserves at the Aswan Dam, which provides up to 25 percent of Egypt's electric power, have fallen.

Diplomats expect Mr Mubarak to try to persuade the junta in Khartoum not to go ahead with plans to take advantage of the January 1 anniversary celebrations to announce the creation of a federal system in Sudan.

Colonel John Garang's SPLA, which wants a secular Sudan to free the mainly Christian and animist south from domination by the Moslem north, would see such a move as effective partition with undesirable religious implications, they argue. The foreign minister said Friday that the SPLA, which has fought successive governments since 1983, "is seeking to obtain a kind of autonomy but is not a separatist movement".

Jewish Council Chairman Departs for Israel

NC3012220489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2142 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 30 Dec (MENA)—David Saxon, chairman of the Jewish Council in Belgium, left Cairo for Israel this evening, following a 2-day visit to Egypt.

Saxon said that he held talks with Dr Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, and a number of Egyptian officials. He said his talks focused on ways to push the peace process forward so that 1990 may be the year of peace.

David Saxon noted that the Jewish public opinion in Europe wishes to assist in resolving the Middle East issue, because public opinion in Eruope and Israel can have a bearing on the peace process and can influence the Israeli Government's decisions.

Saxon remarked that this is the time for peace, which will benefit the Israelis, the Palestinians, and the entire world. He said: We believe in the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to establish their own state, while preserving Israel's security.

Commentary Views Arab Unity, Cohesiveness

NC2912160289 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Zayn al-Ja'fari commentary: "The Arab Nation is More United and Cohesive on the Eve of the New Year"]

[Text] It is only 2 days until the beginning of the new year. We look to the new year with hope that it will mark the beginning of a new stage of joint Arab action commensurate with the immense challenges and the international developments facing the Arab nation.

We do not exaggerate in saying that 1989 was the year of purifying the Arab atmosphere. It witnessed great achievements on the path of Arab reconciliations, which aimed primarily at serving the supreme interest of the Arab nation; for a while it had been suffering from the lack of effective Arab solidarity and a united Arab stand which are essential for arriving at solutions to the important Arab issues, above all the the Palestinian issue, the situation in Lebanon, and the establishment of peace in the Arab Gulf.

Foremost among the positive steps taken on the path of Arab reconciliations was Egypt's resumption of its normal position in the Arab League and its participation in the Casablanca summit with a high-level delegation led by President Mubarak, who played a noticeable role in preparing the ground for eliminating marginal Arab differences. The Egyptian-Libyan reconciliation was also fully in harmony with the ambitions and aspirations of the Egyptian and Libyan peoples, as well as with the ambitions and aspirations of the Arab nation. The Arab nation fully realizes that any step in this direction will strengthen joint Arab action and ultimately serve the supreme Arab objectives.

It is no wonder that the masses of the Arab nation from the Gulf to the ocean have rejoiced over the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two sisters, Egypt and Syria, after a break of 12 years. This step is also considered a landmark in the efforts President Mubarak has undertaken since he assumed office to achieve Arab entente and complete the links of real solidarity which the enemies of the Arab nation cannot penetrate.

We also do not exaggerate in saying that President Mubarak's policy and his deep realization of the true situation in the Arab area as well as the rest of the world have had their great effect in paving the way for all these commended steps. As President Mubarak has stressed on several occasions, the Arab nation's interest dictates that the Arab atmosphere be pure. Egypt works to purify the atmosphere at all times. Egypt does not and will not support the establishment of blocs.

In its efforts to bring about reconciliation, Egypt has made it clear to all that it does not reconcile a state at the expense of another state. This is because Egypt, as President Mubarak has stressed, rejects the policy of blocs which has harmed the world and its interests for a period of time. Therefore, the Arab states must never permit the previous situation to return.

The restoration of diplomatic relations between Cairo and Damascus has come at an appropriate time. The Arab world needs to complete the links of solidarity so it will be ready to confront the challenges imposed by the international developments and events. Undoubtedly, this positive Egyptian-Syrian step will pave the way for further reconciliations and will strengthen Arab efforts to establish peace and stability in the region.

The Arab nation is now on the threshhold of the new year, more united and more prepared to occupy its proper place in the world. We are confident that Arab solidarity, which has proved effective in calming the situation in the area and in finding solutions to several Arab issues, is fully capable of completing the remaining steps on the road to comprehensive Arab reconciliation. The new year will witness further Arab solidarity and cohesion to enable the Arab nation to stave off the dangers surrounding it and to secure a better future for its noble masses.

Operation To Arrest Islamic Group Members Viewed

JN3012164889 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 28 Dec 89 p 21

["Exclusive" report]

[Text] There are many reports that Egyptian security forces are engaged in a large-scale operation which has expanded to include elements of Islamic groups in the Umbabah neighborhood of al-Jizah Governorate, the 'Ayn Shams district in Cairo, and the Governorates of al-Fayyum, al-Minya, and Asyut.

Informed sources say that a large number of individuals wanted by the law are members of the Islamic groups belonging to the "Islamic Jihadist Grouping" [al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah al-Jihadiyah], which is different from the Islamic Jihad Grouping. The police are now looking for them and has augmented the number of men and night operations. The security forces' secret police has deployed in the areas mentioned. The sources, citing eyewitnesses, assert that a few days ago, a van drove off after it had been stopped in the Mahkamah district of Umbabah neighborhood in al-Jizah. Security men were not able to catch up with the van after a brief chase. It was reported that one of the wanted individuals was in it.

Electricity Cooperation Accord Signed With Libya

NC2712153889 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] A protocol on cooperation in the field of energy between Egypt and the Libyan Jamahiriyah was signed today at the Ministry of Electricity. The protocol, which was signed by Electricity Minister Mahir Abazah and Jum'ah al-Abrashi, secretary of the people's committee for electricity [name and title as heard], provides for the unification of the two countries' electricity networks, cooperation in the field of electrical industries, the exchange of information, the rationalization of energy use, the training of workers, and the manufacture and maintenance of electrical equipment.

Joint committees have been formed which will meet periodically to follow up on the implementation of the protocol.

Electricity Network To Link With Libya by Mar

NC2812065389 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 28 Dec 89

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AKHBAR cites Eng Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, on Egypt and Libya's agreement to provide the necessary Egyptian technicians to operate and provide maintenance for power plants and control centers in Libya. The two countries have also agreed to provide Egyptian technicians to train personnel in Libya, to operate the electric transformer plant in Tripoli, and to immediately undertake technical and economic studies in order to link the electricity networks in both countries by March.

Australia Wheat Grant Worth $11.8 Million

JN3012190489 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 29 Dec 89 p 6

[By Fatin 'Abd-al-Raziq]

[Text] Australia will give wheat to Egypt worth $11.8 million. Shipment of the wheat to Egyptian ports will start next month. This is part of the Australian food aid program for 1989/1990. The proceeds from the wheat sales will be used to help finance food security and increase agricultural production in the various governorates.

The Australian Government decided to increase the grant over last year's amount by $1.5 million due to the increase in the price of wheat.

A memorandum of understanding was signed yesterday at the Ministry of International Cooperation according to which Australia grants Egypt this amount. The memorandum was signed for Egypt by Umaymah 'Abd-al-'Aziz, first under secretary at the ministry, and for Australia by (Jude Free), charge d'affaires at the Australian Embassy in Cairo.

New Plan To Tackle Hard Currency Difficulties

JN3012180589 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 29 Dec 89 p 1

[By Jamal Sidqi]

[Text] Responsible government economic sources have confirmed that Egypt will receive about $1 billion in urgent monetary and economic aid following the signing of the new agreement with the IMF. The sources expect that Egypt will receive this aid within 3 months beginning early February. AL-WAFD has learned that Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi is facing a dilemma in earmarking the sources of foreign currency in the coming state plan and budget which will take effect at the beginning of July. The dilemma is due to the absence of rough estimates of the size of exports, loans, and aid for the coming year. Improvised estimates in this year's foreign currency budget caused many problems when the investments contained in the plan were carried out and basic commodities and raw materials were imported. AL-WAFD has also learned that President Husni Mubarak will hold a meeting within the next few days to discuss a new plan the government has prepared to secure hard currency and deal with the severe shortage of foreign currency.

Responsible sources asserted that the plan to rationalize the use of foreign currency is intended to bridge the serious financing gap which Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, in exclusive statements to AL-WAFD, has estimated at $1.2 to $1.5 billion this year. The plan President Mubarak will discuss seeks to place constraints on the use of foreign currency for the import of equipment, machinery, and some raw materials. This plan also seeks to save approximately $1.2 billion of the cost of importing equipment.

Bank Report Indicates Drop in Economic Growth

JN2712104689 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
25 Dec 89 p 6

[By Sharif Riyad]

[Text] In its annual report on the monetary and credit situation, the Central Bank has announced that the national economic growth rate dropped during the fiscal year 1988-1989 to 5 percent against 5.9 percent for 1987-1988.

The report, which was submitted yesterday to the People's Assemby, indicated that the drop is due to a number of factors, foremost of which are the drop in the production of rice and cotton, the decline in petroleum production, and the drop in the growth rate of the construction, electricity, trade, financial, insurance, and tourism sectors.

The report asserted, however, that this decline in the growth of national economy will be redeemed during the current fiscal year 1889-1990. In this regard, the report referred to the statements of the Ministry of Planning which emphasized the tangible high rate of spending on investments during the current fiscal year, in contrast with the past fiscal year. Fixed investment, excluding land, has risen by 9.2 billion Egyptian pounds according to the prices of 1986-1987 against 8.3 billion Egyptian pounds [no year as published], representing an 8.4 percent increase. The report indicated that the inflation rate amounted to 25.5 percent during the fiscal year 1988-1989.

The report also indicated an increase in the current deficit in the general budget to reach approximately 4 billion Egyptian pounds in the fiscal year 1988-1989 against 2.4 billion Egyptian pounds in the past fiscal year 1987-1988.

These developments have resulted in an increase in foreign debt by a limited percentage amounting to 29.6 billion dollars at the end of June 1989, against 28.9 billion dollars at the end of June 1988. The United States holds the biggest amount of this debt or what is equal to about one-fifth of it. As for the public local debt, it reached 59 billion Egyptian pounds at the end of last June. The Central Bank, the public sector banks, and the Social Security Corporation, are the biggest subscribers to this debt.

Central Bank Chief Gives Figures for Deposits

JN3012191689 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
29 Dec 89 p 1

[By Faraj Abu-al-'Izz]

[Text] Foreign and local currency deposits in the public sector banks have risen to a billion Egyptian pounds for an increase of 6.1 million over last year. Banks have made a profit of 140 million pounds for an increase of 30.6 million pounds over last year. It has been decided to disburse the maximum allowable amount of the profits and give them out as full periodic salary increments to bank employees. This is what Dr Salah Hamid, governor of the Egyptian Central Bank, has stated.

He said that the balance of financial loans, investments, and contributions has increased to 27.3 billion pounds as opposed to 23.9 billion last year. The industrial sector received the greater part of the increase in loans: 9.1 billion pounds. The balance of the foreign currency deposits also went up to 15 billion pounds for a rate of 11.2 percent. Deposits in Egyptian pounds also increased 17.4 percent.

The real estate and industrial banks were granted loans for real estate, industrial, and economic and cooperative housing projects for skilled workers and small industries amounting to 2.871 billion pounds for an increase of 2.7 million pounds over last year.

Statistics on Oil Reserves, Production Reported

JN2812205689 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
26 Dec 89 p 6

[By Muhammad al-Shamma']

[Excerpt] Egypt's oil reserves have amounted to 4.4 billion barrels, 85 percent of which is in Sinai and the Gulf of Suez, 9 percent in al-Sahra' al-Gharbiyah, and 6 percent in al-Sahra' al- Sharqiyah. Annual output of crude oil amounted to 308 million barrels and the average daily output amounted to 870,000 barrels, 90 percent of which was obtained from the Gulf of Suez and Sinai, 7 percent from al-Sahra' al-Gharbiyah, and 3 percent from al-Sahra' al-Sharqiyah. Gas production amounted to 21.5 million cubic meters daily and 24,000 barrels of dense oil. Butane gas production amounted to 1,600 ton per day. Some 15 new agreements to prospect for oil and gas are expected to be signed next year.

This was reported at a seminar on developing petroleum resources, held by the Egyptian Engineers Association. [passage omitted]

Press Council Approves 19 New Publications

JN2812185289 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 26 Dec 89 p 1

[By Zayid 'Ali Sa'd]

[Text] During a meeting yesterday [25 December] under its chairman, Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, the Higher Press Council approved 19 new newspapers and magazines. Among them are the magazine AKHBAR AL-RIYADAH [SPORTS NEWS], which will be issued today by the AKHBAR AL-YAWM foundation; AL-AHRAM AL-RIYADI [AL-AHRAM SPORTS]; the magazine AL-MAR'AH [WOMAN]; and the weekly English-language version of AL-AHRAM.

Others are the magazine HURRIYATI [MY FREEDOM], from the Dar al-Tahrir foundation; AL-SAHAFIYUN [JOURNALISTS], from the journalists association; the magazine AL-YASAR [THE LEFT] and KITAB AL-AHALI [AL-AHALI BOOK], from the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party; and JARIDAT AL-FALLAH AL-MASRI [THE EGYPTIAN PEASANT NEWSPAPER], AKHBAR AL-SA'ID [UPPER NILE NEWS], and JARIDAT AL-'URUBAH [THE ARABISM NEWSPAPER], published by the Liberal Party.

The council has also authorized 51 journalists to work for non-Egyptian media institutions. It also agreed to extend the service of 24 journalists and workers at the national press foundations.

Sidqi Gives Government Policy Statement

NC1912185489 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 17 Dec 89 pp 3,5,8,11

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub opened the assembly's session this morning to hear the government's statement delivered by Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi.

In the government's statement, Dr 'Atif Sidqi hoped that the assembly would succeed in serving Egypt's welfare and its people. He stressed that through its cooperation with the People's Assembly during the past 3 years, the government's work and accomplishments in various fields have been enormous.

The prime minister said: I will leave a report with the Assembly's Secretariat on the achievements in the past period, achieved with the People's Assembly's support for the government.

Sidqi added: If we review events of the past 3 years, we will find that the government has accomplished much. In the first year, 1986-87, when it assumed Egypt's affairs, the government concentrated on a principal problem—the scarcity of foreign currency. It managed to establish the banking market, enabling us to confront many of the needs for foreign currency. The market provided more than $58 billion in the past 3 years. This is not enough to meet all the needs but it is substantial.

The prime minister reviewed the government's policy in the economic, social, and political fields which aimed at preserving the productive sources and creating new sources, channeling the public expenditure to the maximum, providing needed financing, fighting inflation, and stabilizing the prices of the exchange of foreign currencies.

Sidqi said: It is appropriate that in this statement I concentrate on issues which preoccupy the government and the Egyptian public and on the government's way of thinking and its programs to confront these issues: the foodstuff gap; freedom of the administration in the productive units, particularly the public sector's units; reforming the conditions of the stumbling companies; deficit in the state's general budget; foreign debt; narrowing the gap between imports and exports; problems of unemployment and narcotics; in addition to the foreign policy.

Permit me to move to the first issue.

One: The Foodstuff Gap

About 20 years ago the state began suffering from the widening gap between the need for and the local production of some of the basic food commodities as a result of the increase in population growth, change in the pattern of consumption as a result of the increase in the individual's income, and the expansion in the use of some commodities such as maize and sugar as intermediary commodities in the food industries such as sweetmeats, refreshments, starch, and others as well as in the animal fodder industry.

On the other hand, food crops and meat and dairy products diminished, or stayed at fixed levels, throughout the 1970's. This was the result of several factors, mainly the slow rate of vertical agricultural development, the fixed arable area, and the application of pricing policies which made agriculture an unprofitable practice for farmers, and subsequently affected their willingness to farm. Moreover, veterinary services were not sufficiently developed.

These negative factors caused changes which are impossible to ignore, in terms of the self-sufficiency rates of food products. Between 1971 and 1982, the wheat self-sufficiency rate fell from 43 percent to 32 percent. Other food products followed the same downward trend: In 1982, the self-sufficiency rate reached 65 percent for maize, 87 percent for broad beans, 31 percent for purified sugar, 73 percent for red meat, and 93.5 percent for eggs.

To bridge this wide gap in food production, the state adopted a new strategy for agricultural development to achieve stabilized growth rates in agricultural development, in its agrarian and animal sectors. This strategy began with the adoption of long-term planning in 1982. To apply this strategy, the government adopted the following policies in the field of agricultural production:

—It gave a strong push to vertical development programs, which covered selecting high-yielding seeds, improving land fertility, making use of the Ministry of Agriculture's successful experiments, and paying attention to agricultural extension services. As a result of these efforts, the average productivity of major food crops increased considerably. The productivity per feddan increased from 34.4 tons in 1981-87 to 40 tons in 1988-89 for sugar cane, from 12.4 to 16 ardebs for maize, from 2.4 to 2.6 for rice, from 9.7 to 13.8 ardeb for wheat, from 6.3 to 6.6 ardebs for broad beans, and from 3.2 to 5 ardebs for lentil.

—It implemented an agricultural mechanization plan desgined to achieve the highest possible rates of production at the lowest possible cost, and made efforts to provide the credit necessary for the purchase of machinery, both for individuals and specialized cooperative societies working in the field of agricultural mechanization.

The government has established a company for mechanized agriculture, with a view to acquiring machinery and to supporting maintenance workshops. The government also set up 80 mechanized stations in various governorates to provide services for farmers.

—Freeing the agricultural sector from the restrictions that limit the private sector's contribution to increased production and productivity. Examples of the measures taken in this respect are as follows:

1. Canceling the compulsory sale quotas of more than 12 crops. The quotas now apply to the cotton and sugar cane crops only and to half of the rice yield. In return, the government supports the cultivators of these three crops by subsidizing the fertilizer, seed, and insecticide. The government bears part of the costs of combatting the blights and gives grants for sugar cane cultivation. The government intends to cancel gradually the compulsory sale of all crops;

2. Raising the prices of various agricultural crops so that they will be in line with the economic prices. This applies to all agricultural food crops in a manner that will greatly narrow the gap between the farmer's and national economy's profits;

3. Giving permission to the private sector to import production needs such as maize, fertilizers, insecticides, and agricultural machines; and

4. Giving more loans to farmers for various purposes.

As for increasing the agricultural area, the government is implementing an integrated plan to expand land reclamation. The government and the public sector have completed the infrastructure for an area of more than half a million feddans during the years 1987-89. For its part, the private sector is implementing the reclamation and cultivation.

As for the government's policy on dealing with impediments to reclamation, the necessary procedures have been facilitated, and the cabinet has prepared a draft for a unified law, preventing contradiction between the current land reclamation laws. Efforts are under way to dissolve the cooperative societies that are not serious in conducting the works of reclamation, cultivation, and in hiring or leasing the land in its possession to their hard-working members or to others.

The government policy to increase the productivity of red meat, poultry, and fish can be summed up in the following:

Because most of the red meat production sector follows the traditional rural method in production, in which cattle ownership is fragmented, the relevant government policy to develop this sector follows two parallel lines:

1. Developing the rural sector through providing productive inputs, including animal fodder. The total fodder production increased from 1.2 million tons in 1981 to 2.1 million tons [ne date given as published], at a rate of 75 percent. The government also provided free veterinary services.

2. Encouraging and developing the advanced commercial sector and building large-scale dairy and cattle farms. The government has contributed to the development of this activity by advancing easy loans with extended grace periods and exempting farms from customs fees and taxes for certain periods.

The most significant accomplishment in this connection was the national calves project in 1983-84. The purpose of the project is to increase meat production by breeding calves, and increase dairy production by using milk alternatives for feeding calves. The project began with 50,000 head, which increased to 189,000 head. The target figure is 250,000 head.

Poultry production also experienced a fundamental improvement, which turned it from a marginal activity into an economic activity. This was possible through the application of advanced technology and the encouragement of private investment, by offering credit and loan facilities, and granting customs and tax exemptions. In the past 2 years, this sector suffered from the lack of fodder and operational finance. The accumulation of overdue debts to the banks also led several poultry farms to cease production. The government is constantly tackling the problems facing this vital sector, by providing the needed poultry. The total poultry production increased from 229,000 tons in 1981 to 1.9 million tons in 1988, at the rate of 729 percent.

As a result of these efforts, poultry production increased from 202 million chickens in 1981 to 282 million chickens in 1988, an increase of about 38 percent. The production of eggs increased from 900 million to 3.8 billion in the same period, an average increase of 322 percent.

Regarding the fishing resources, the government's policy has been to form the administrative and technical structure of the various organs working in this field. This has led to the development of the various fishing resources. The result has been an increase in production from 124,000 tons in 1981 to about 245,000 tons of fish in 1988, an increase of 97.5 percent.

As a result of these serious efforts to develop the agricultural sector, the rates of self-sufficiency increased in wheat from 32 percent in 1982 to 36 percent in 1988-89; in maize from 65 to 70 percent; in lentils from 6 to 21 percent; in red meat from 73 to 80.8 percent; and in sugar from 31 to 64.5 percent. Some commodities such as broad beans, poultry, and eggs have almost totally disappeared from the list of imports.

Despite this improvement in the rates of self-sufficiency in basic foodstuffs, the gap between need and local production remains wide. It is sufficient to point out that this gap cost Egypt $1.45 billion in 1988-89 against $1.015 billion in 1987-88. These amounts were paid to import wheat, flour, maize, fats, vegetable oils, sugar, meat, and fish.

In light of the continuous increase in the international prices of these imports, the continuation of this average in the foodstuffs gap will lead to extremely harmful economic and social results if steps are not expedited to increase production and change the current patterns of the high rates of consumption. To achieve an increase in production, the government's 1989-90 program includes the following:

Allocation of investments for the agriculture, irrigation, and drainage sector amounting to about 1.578 billion pounds including 720 million pounds for the private sector's projects and 858 million pounds for the government and the public sector. These investments permit the completion of the projects, which have already begun, and the replacement and rennovation projects. They also permit the implementation of the new projects pertaining to the vertical development of the agricultural sector, development of water resources, and implementation of the superstructure for the reform of 150,000 feddans of land.

—Increasing the area allocated to major food crops in the proposed crop structure desgined for the old areas for the 1989/90 period. As for new arable areas, we aim to grow wheat in 200,000 feddans, 150,000 of which in the northern coast and Sinai, and beets, maize, and lentils in 200,000 feddans.
—Minimizing agricultural waste through mechanizing harvest processes, selecting strains of seeds which resist molting, expanding fruit and crop processing factories, and encouraging the establishment of specialized marketing firms which use advanced modern methods.
—In the field of meat and dairy production, distinctive husbandry methods will cover Bani Suwayf, al-Fayyum, and al-Gharbiyah. The national calves project will also continue.
—Achieving self-sufficiency in poultry and egg production through making efforts to ensure the stability and the continuation of public and private productive units, providing the means of production, and reactivating idle projects.
—Expanding fish farms and fostering the cooperative and the private sectors who have the largest share in fish production. This can be done through granting further facilities to develop fishing methods.

Two: Liberation Productive Unit Administration

Economic reform programs have been seeking to mobilize available local resources with the purpose of increasing development investment and strengthening the productive abilities of the national economy. These programs were based on two principles:
1. To develop and update the administrative systems of public sector companies and economic institutions to keep pace with the technological progress;
2. To stimulate the private sector participation through fiscal and financial policies and credit.

This has resulted in an increase in private ownership in the various fields. The public sector became a partner in most productive bases in our national economy, which embraces 392 public sector companies, 25 of which are co-owned by the private sector; 327 joint ventures which are co-owned by the private sector; and 2,317 projects in which the private sector is partly represented.

The goal of the reform programs in the coming stage is to remove the difficulties which have been, and still are, facing productive firms, particularly weaknesses in administration, disorderliness in financing structures, and the failure of certain companies.

I am pleased to review the government's efforts to curb the effects of these constraints, and its approach to handling them.

By administration, we mean planning and controlling production to maximize the production rate, making the maximum use of available productive resources, improving and developing the variety and quality of products, and achieving efficiency in marketing. The following are some of the measures adopted by the government in this connection:
—A free exchange market was established which has, so far, brought in foreign exchange to the value of $8 billion. The revenue was used to open export credits

which amounted to $3.4 billion for the public sector and $4.7 for the private sector. This helped industry to obtain the raw materials and spare parts necessary for production.

—Interest has been shown in continuing projects that are under construction, so that thay may start actual production, and in continuing to allocate investment funds to the replacement, renovation, and development of productive units in the public sector to ensure that they do not stand idle. Investment in this area amounted to 5.4 million Egyptian pounds, 61 percent of total public sector investments.
—The capabilities of scientific and technological research centers have been enhanced so that the best productive methods and alternatives may be reached.
—Continuous support has been given to the infrastructure of our national economy.
—Support has been provided for production quality control departments. In fact, encouraging results have been achieved in raising production performance in some fields. For example, worker productivity in some public sector industrial companies has increased to 23,000 pounds per year. The average production for each pound spent in wages has increased from 5.3 pounds in 1983-84 to 8.2 pounds in 1988-89. Industrial production of the public sector companies increased to 14 billion pounds in 1988-89, compared with 11.6 billion pounds in the previous year, an increasae of 20 percent.

On the other hand, some companies of the public and joint sectors are still suffering from weak management. To redress this situation the government is considering new measures to free management in the public sector companies:

—Separating management from ownership and selecting a group of specialists and experts, for each activity, who will work within the framework of holding companies or other organizational arrangements to carry out the following tasks: propose programs to develop and create new products which one company cannot undertake in order to improve the economics of operation; merge small companies of similar or complementary activity; develop production, marketing, financial, and administrative systems and simplify the control operation and the continued evaluation of the work of the companies; choose personnel with high managerial abilities to occupy managerial posts in companies; and propose changes in existing legislation concerning the public sector to achieve greater effectiveness in management.
—Giving freedom of action to management in the public sector companies and economic organizations so that they may make the necessary decisions. This measure would be coupled with certain controls to enable results to be judged. Among the important ideas in this respect are:

Freedom to price products provided pricing is based on guidelines pertaining to production cost. In the case of the sale of certain commodities and services at social prices, the state's general budget will bear the difference between these prices and the economic price.

—Freedom to liquidate the activities which constitute an economic burden on the companies.
—Freedom to borrow through the banking system or by means of issuing bonds;
—Freedom to keep any surplus exceeding certain limits and to reinvest it;
—Freedom for the administration to determine the financial income of those working in the production sector.

A considerable number of productive units in both the public and private sectors suffer from an imbalance in their financial structures. This prompts these units to seek short- and long-term loans. Naturally, this would further increase financial burdens and increase the cost of production. The public sector's problems in this regard are due to the insufficient sources of long-term finance for fixed operations. However, one of the principal causes of the private sector's problems is the fact that most of the sector's productive units rely on loans from the banking system. It transpired from the actual available budgets of certain companies that the rate of financing the actual investment expenses from domestic sources is around 25 percent against 75 percent from foreign financing sources.

To deal with this, the government has pursued financial and credit policies that would help projects lessen the deficit in their liquidity. The banking system (commercial banks) has granted credit facilities within secure limits. The government has granted equal credit facilities to companies from the public and private sectors amounting to 22 billion pounds by the end of June 1989 against 18.8 billion pounds by the end of June 1988, an increase of 3.2 billion pounds, amounting to a 16.9 percent rate of increase.

The government has also issued bonds, the interest burden of which will be covered by the state's general budget to offset the deficit in investment in certain public sector companies. Competent committees have been formed jointly with some public sector companies and the Ministry of Finance to study the companies' financial structures and adopt measures to rectify these structures. Furthermore, the banking market for foreign currency has also contributed to confronting the accumulation of the private sector's foreign currency debts by using part of its resources for this purpose.

The new investment law No 230 for 1989 includes tax exemptions for 5 years to help increase the capital of private sector projects that are in difficulties in order to reform their financial structures. The government has set up new financial establishments and instruments in the Egyptian stock market as follows:

In order to deal with the difficulties facing the issue of company bonds, a new type of financial paper for joint stock companies that do not receive funds has been introduced. It has been presented under the name of a financial bond with a variable return.

The first installment of national development bonds in U.S. dollars was issued for subscription by Egyptians and foreigners in Egypt and abroad. These bonds give a variable return according to the inter-bank dealings of the London market, in addition to a margin of profit of ½ percent annually, payable every 6 months.

Where company losses and surpluses are concerned, the performance of most of the public sector companies improved in 1988-89 compared with 1987-88. Surpluses increased at a high rate. An example of this is that 95 industrial companies out of 115 companies achieved surpluses amounting to 922 million Egyptian pounds, versus 830 milion pounds in the previous year, an increase of 11.1 percent. The net surplus of 56 companies of the construction and housing sector totaled 18 million pounds after a loss of 82 million. The surplus of hotel and tourism companies increased by 61 percent, foreign trade companies by 14 percent, electricity distribution companies by 100 percent, passenger transportation companies in governorates by 265 percent, goods transportation companies by 158 percent, and the food commodities companies by 330 percent.

Meanwhile, the activities of 20 public sector industrial companies resulted in losses totaling 149 million pounds in 1988-89, versus 163 in the previous year. The activities of a limited number of public sector nonindustrial companies resulted in losses. The activities of several joint companies continue to result in losses. Part of these losses is due to burdens resulting from previous years' transactions, as in the case of companies obligated to pay off foreign currency debts on the basis of a rate of exchange that has currently risen to 260 piastres per U.S. dollar, versus 135 piastres when the loan was signed. In addition, investments are being financed partially or completely by loans on which the companies pay interest that absorbs a tangible part of their resources, or for other factors beyond the will of the companies, such as pricing or shortage of raw materials. In addition, management incompetence is considered partially or completely responsible for the losses of certain companies.

Therefore, the adjustment of the situations of losing companies requires, in addition to the implementation of certain general policies, a study of each case individually and the formulation of specific solutions for each company. A high-level committee has been formed to consider the situation of companies in the public and joint sectors that are experiencing difficulties, out of a concern to support the serious companies, guarantee their survival, and maintain their production potential.

Three: Total Deficit in the State's General Budget

This represents the gap between the state's total expenditures and its total revenues each year. This gap is financed by internal and external grants and loans. A limited part of this gap is also financed by the banking system. The fiscal policy aims to reduce this deficit gradually through:

The Tax Department: The department has made great progress in compiling data on the society. A total of 676,000 new taxpayers have been registered in the last 3 years. This has increased the number of taxpayers by 36 percent compared with fiscal year 1985-86. The department has taken several measures to settle tax disputes quickly. It has also established judicial departments in the tax regions so as to create full cooperation between the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Justice. The department has also provided payment facilities for taxpayers.

These efforts by the Tax Department have resulted in the collection of 4.2 billion pounds in 1988-89, an increase of 868 million pounds over the previous year. This represents a growth rate of 26 percent and an increase of almost 51 percent. The collection of development tax has reached 290 million pounds, an increase of 21 percent over the previous year.

The Formation of a Central Department Specialized in Preparing and Implementing the Programs Connected With the Application of the Revenue Stamp Law and in Tightening Control on the Implementation of the Law and Collecting the State's Dues

The amount collected from revenue stamps reached 721 million pounds in 1988-89, an increase of 226 million pounds over the previous year. This represents an increase of almost 46 percent and an increase of 88 percent over the year 1985-86.

The Customs Department has made changes within the department by simplifying procedures, rationalizing exemptions, and amending the customs tariff. These efforts have resulted in the collection of 6.838 billion pounds in 1988-89, an increase of 447 million pounds over the previous year. This represents a growth rate of 18 percent and a growth rate of 56 percent compared with 1985-86.

In the field of taxes on consumption, solutions have been found to outstanding problems which have been the subject of dispute with the taxpayers. There has been coordination with the Customs Department to ensure the sound application of the law, tighten control on tax collection, and fight tax evasion. These efforts have resulted in the collection of 2.402 billion pounds in 1988-89, an increase of 411 million pounds over the previous year. This represents a growth rate of 20.6 percent and a growth rate of 61 percent compared with 1985-86. During this session the government intends to submit a bill on sales tax with the aim of correcting the shortcomings in the application of the current consumption tax and providing the public treasury with further resources within the framework of social justice.

Important Steps To Rationalize Public Spending

In rationalizing public spending, the government has taken several measures. The most important are:
—All departments will confine their spending to within the limits of the estimated allocations in their budgets, and apply every allocation to its designated purpose.
—The best rate for the utilization of commodity requisites will be set and followed up to curb overspending.
—The stored commodities will be utilized to the maximum extent possible.
—Delegations will travel abroad only on basic duties and in the necessary numbers.
—The allocations for fuel for cars, water, and lighting will be fixed so as to rationalize spending. The purchase of new cars has been suspended except in cases of dire need. In buttressing decentralization and establishing sound accounting rules for the financial control at the level of local governments, the Finance Ministry established 68 new accounting units and provided the necessary Finance Ministry representatives to supervise them. —The regulations governing the public and accounts establishments and private funds will be codified so as to tighten financial control and rationalize spending.

Four: The Foreign Public Debt

The overall civilian foreign public debts on 30 June 1989 amounted to approximately $29.7 billion. These debts accrued as a result of foreign loans borrowed for the following purposes:
—Financing the infrastructure without which no ecocomic and social development is possible.
—Financing investment objectives geared to securing the necessary foreign component for the projects of replacing and renewing the existing productive structures, and financing the complementary and expansion projects and the establishment of new projects.
—Financing the import of commodities—raw materials, production requisites, and spare parts—to enhance performance in the productive units and prevent stoppages in their production lines.
—Securing wheat and flour by importing it from the American market by loans concluded within the context of American law.
—Bolstering the Egyptian balance of payments with a view to securing the necessary liquidity in foreign currency to honor the obligations due on the Egyptian economy.
—Regarding the burden of servicing the foreign public debts, the government is seeking to ease this burden on the nationl economy enough to enable Egypt to proceed with the economic and social development process without any hindrances.

The government's policy in this respect is to pay the installments and interest on the loans whose payments are not subject to rescheduling and to defer the repayment of the loans that can be rescheduled. In implementation of this policy, an agreement was signed between the Egyptian Government and the governments of 18 creditor states on 22 May 1987, providing for rescheduling the due and unpaid installments and interest up to 31 December 1986 as well as the amount due for the period from 1 January 1987 to 30 June 1988.

In 1988-89 Egypt's payments to creditor nations and quarters to settle installments and interest on its foreign debt reached $1.8 billion, which represents 16.2 percent of foreign currency revenue. Negotiations are taking place with the IMF to reach an agreement to reschedule the unpaid installments and interest which are due for the period between 1 July 1988 and the beginning of 1990. In these negotiations the government is committed to rejecting any programs that result in increased pressure on the living standard of people on a limited income.

Target Exports and Specialized Companies for This

—Developing Egyptian exports by pursuing a policy of target exports instead of a policy of surplus exports;
—Encouraging the establishment of specialized export projects and giving them relative privileges;
—Adopting executive measures to establish a government company which will provide insurance to exporters, and thereby encourage them to enter new markets and bear the risks entailed.

This has resulted in increased exports. For example, exports of industrial products from the public sector reached $907 million in 1988-89, compared to $665 million in 1986-87. This represents a growth rate of 136 percent in only 2 years. The exports of the private and investment sectors for the same period increased from $505.3 million to $705.5 million, which is a growth rate of 139.6 percent.

Revenue from tourism can be increased by improved advertising abroad and by using all occasions to advertise tourism in Egypt. Agreements will be concluded with Arab and international tourist organizations and unions. These efforts have resulted in an increase in the number of tourists to 2.1 million in 1988-89, compared to 1.9 million the previous year, an increase of 10 percent. Revenue from tourism has increased from $884.2 in 1987-88 to $920 million in 1988-89.

In the field of encouraging and attracting Egyptian savings from abroad, the banks are offering various savings plans and paying interest at rates comparable to those on the world market. The current banking system ensures complete secrecy and enables depositors to keep foreign currency in free accounts.

Steps to Rationalize Imports and Reschedule Debts

In a bid to reduce demand for foreign currencies, the installments and interests due on certain debts are being rescheduled and imports are being rationalized through the following measures:
—Encouraging public and private sector companies to produce alternatives to production requisites in order to limit their import;

—Constant followup of production of commodities to secure alternatives from local products;
—Linking industrialization plans to raw materials available locally;
—Expanding and manufacturing production machinery locally and continuing up efforts to improve their quality and competence by establishing advanced engineering design centers.

The new investment law encourages local capital equipment by granting additional tax exemption for 2 years if the local components of machines, equipment, and supplies exceed 60 percent.

All valid resolutions and provisions related to imports are regularly reviewed and amended to cope with changes and with the state's economic policies.

Five: The Unemployment Problem

The phenomenon of unemployment we are now facing is closely linked with the population problem. What helped expand the scope of this phenomenon is the increase by threefold of university graduates and by about eightfold of university undergraduates and high school diploma holders who seek employment. We all agree that we are required to find comprehensive and nontraditional short-, medium-, and long-term solutions. Among these solutions, some of which the government has actually started to implement, are:

1. Reclamation of 150,000 feddans anually. This would create many job opportunities in both reclamation and cultivation processes. To facilitate this, the government is making loans available to the public and private sector companies and individuals. The government has drawn up a plan to distribute reclaimed land to university graduates and this plan has been implemented for the past 2 years. According to plans, the area to be distributed in the 4th year will total 59,500 feddans, and in the 5th year 68,000 feddans;
2. Equipping industrial areas in the new cities and supplying them with amenities for sale at prices that are less than the cost of the utilities in order to encourage investors to establish various industries, which would create job opportunities for young people;
3. Establishment of complexes for small industries and supplementary industries to supply material to existing factories, which will also create more job opportunities for young people.

To encourage and support small industries, the public budget allocates an annual sum for financing loans on easy terms to productive and vocational cooperation sectors. This sum, which is usually provided by the Industrial Development Bank, amounted to 5 million Egyptian pounds in 1987-88 and rose to 10 million in 1988-89.

The Scientific Research and Reconstruction Ministries agreed to allocate suitable sites to industrial projects in the 6 October and 10th of Ramadan cities. The Scientific Research Ministry's studies, consultations, and technological and technical research fund will undertake to establish a number of small pioneer projects on those sites, so that young people can examine them and try to establish similar projects.

4. Launching tourism development projects to provide more job opportunities to young people. The government tends to employ nontraditional methods in exploiting and developing tourist areas by selecting certain areas for integrated development purposes. The selection is based on the tourism planning studies approved by the Ministry of Tourism. The projects will be assigned to companies which have the necessary resources.

The Ministry of Tourism sought the help of consultants in preparing the necessary studies for planning five new tourist areas. These areas will be presented to investors who wish to build hotels and tourist projets. The ministry also signed a contract with investors to build five tourist villages. Another contract to build eight other villages is currently under consideration.

—Programs designed to retrain those who hold certificates in fields where there is a surplus and who wish to transfer to other occupations for which there is great demand will be implemented. This will help curb unemployment in certain specializations.

The pilot program began with 13,600 business school graduates who were retrained in administrative jobs to assist in the nursing profession in 1982.

A total of 1,500 people who graduated from agricultural school in 1982 are now participating in a similar program and are being trained to work as assistants in the Health Ministry's laboratories.

—The second 5-year plan (1987-88/1991-92) includes labor-intensive and capital-intensive projects that will gradually absorb unemployed workers. It is estimated that approximately 498,000 job opportunities will be created by the 1989-90 plan.
—Providing conditions favorable to the development of the private sector, so that this sector will make a greater contribution to the development process and generate greater employment opportunities. All this will be effected in light of the privileges granted by the new investment law.

As far as the population problem is concerned, numerous family planning centers have been opened and media campaigns on the importance of family planning have been intensified. For the first time, a group of woman preachers on religious and family affairs will graduate soon. They have been trained to campaign for family planning with an understanding of matters of great sensitivity to women.

It is true that enormous efforts are being exerted to deal with the problem of unemployment. However, the radical solution of this problem is to increase production in all fields at rates exceeding the rate of population growth so that society's ability to save will be promoted and result in more investments, enhanced production potential, and new jobs.

Furthermore, one of the means of tackling the unemployment problem is to coordinate the ciricula of universities and secondary technical institutions and schools with the actual requirements of trades and specializations for development programs in Egypt so that a balance will be achieved between the supply of available graduates from various educational institutions and the demand for them.

Other means include the creation of new job markets for Egyptian youths outside Egypt as well as caring for them and protecting their rights. To this end, the government concluded three bilateral agreements in 1988-89 with the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, and the Yemen Arab Republic. These efforts culminated in the signing of an agreement by the leaders of the Arab Cooperation Council on the freedom of travel for workers in the Council's member countries.

Six: Drug Addiction Problem

The scope of the narcotics problem is hard to assess in any country, and all that can be determined about the narcotics problem are some indications. In Egypt there are two highly important indications:

1. There is an increase in the number of cases involving trading and trafficking narcotics annually. According to statistics prepared by the General Department for Combating Narcotics at the Ministry of Interior, the number of cases recorded in 1989 reached 9,109, compared to 8,858 cases in the preceding year. A United Nations Narcotics Section report indicates that three of the six world's largest hashish smuggling cases in the first half of 1989 were recorded in Egypt.

2. Statistics by local societies working in the field of combating drug addiction show that initially those seeking treatment from these societies were illiterate; then educated people started to show up at these institutions and their number showed a steady yearly increase. This means that the drug addiction problem makes no distinction between rich and poor, the literate or illiterate.

It was inevitable, therefore, that the Egyptian Government tackle the drug problem in order to safeguard the Egyptian society in the following four domains:

1. Legislation: The government introduced amendments to the law on combating the use of and trading in narcotics. Under the amended law, the penalties expanded to include the death penalty and the fines were increased. The necessary measures were made to control the use of sedatives circulated in pharmacies so that they might not be misused. The executive regulations of this law have been prepared and will be submitted to the National Council for the Combat and Treatment of Addiction in its coming meeting, God willing.

2. Confiscating Narcotics: The Ministry of Interior has made obvious efforts in this connection by confronting local and international narcotic dealers, resisting the cultivation of plants used for drugs, and controlling the legitimate trading in sedatives. The border troops are playing a prominent role in keeping an eye on the borders. The Egyptian narcotics agencies are conscientious about coordinating their efforts in the field of seizing drugs with their sister agencies in the friendly states.

3. Orientation, Social Care, and the Discovery of Early Addiction Cases: The government has taken several measures, most important:

—The Ministry of Social Affairs has established several facilities for social research work on the afflicted individuals and their families.
—Training courses for medical practitioners and psychiatrists to ensure early diagnosis of addiction cases and to encourage addicts to seek help from treatment centers.
—The Ministry of Education has set up a higher committee to provide comprehensive care for students. It is the committee's job to study the phenomenon of addiction and its prevention.
—Tighter control measures were taken at clubs and youth facilities to stop the circulation of narcotics in them.
—The clergy have played a great role in providing guidance and orientation.
—Radio and television programs were broadcast to confront the problems of addiction and to educate the citizens of the seriousness of the problem.

4. Treatment: The Ministry of Health, in implementation of the directives made by the National Council for the Combat and Treatment of Narcotics, has paid greater attention to the treatment centers for addicts at the psychiatric care centers, set up sections for treating addicts at public hospitals in the various governorates, and imported and installed the necessary laboratories to diagnose addiction.

Seven: Foreign Policy

Last year there were numerous important achievements on the foreign policy scene under President Husni Mubarak's leadership and on his instructions. Perhaps the most important success was the international arbitration tribunal's ruling in favor of Egypt on the Tabah issue which enabled us to liberate the last part of our sacred soil by peaceful means.

Egypt also restored its relations with fraternal Arab countries and resumed its membership in the Arab League. President Mubarak attended the League's summit in Casablanca last May. Egypt again exercised its membership in joint Arab organizations, federations, funds, and companies and participated in numerous bilateral committees headed by prime ministers. It also received with great official and popular warmth the visits of brother Arab leaders which clearly expressed the depth of Egyptian-Arab ties. The amir of Qatar and the

Tunisian president are expected to visit Egypt in the near future. As you have also seen, there have been positive developments in Egyptian-Libyan relations, which have made considerable progress toward achieving mutual interests in a manner that emphasizes the strong ties between the Egyptian and Libyan peoples.

We must also note Egypt's unfailing support for all Arab causes. It has supported and continues to support Iraq in its conflict with Iran. Egypt has also supported the Arab tripartite committee's efforts regarding Lebanon.

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and the Yemen Arab Republic established the Arab Cooperation Council on 26 February 1989 as an expression of their desire for solidarity and coordination in reaching the goal of economic integration.

On the Palestinian issue, we find that Egyptian diplomacy under the president's leadership has performed a positive and effective role in seeking to attain a just peace and to restore the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. It has done this while taking full care to conduct Egyptian moves after consulting and coordinating with the Palestinian leadership and fraternal Arab countries.

On the African scene, the unanimous selection of President Husni Mubarak by African leaders as the current chairman of the OAU demonstrated Egypt's concern to maintain its relations with the other countries of the continent at the optimal level.

Egypt hosted numerous African meetings. The debt issue and African concerns featured prominently in the president's speech to the UN General Assembly on 29 September 1989.

On relations with Islamic countries, Egypt takes care to bolster its relations with the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] member states. It will host the ICO ministerial conference during the first half of 1990.

Throughout last year, Egypt continued to play a pioneering and constructive role in the Nonaligned Movement on the grounds that this movement's principles are basic components of our foreign policy.

Regarding Europe, Egypt follows the events and developments in Eastern Europe with great interest because they are bound to have a profound effect on the balances and relations among the existing powers on the continent.

Egypt's relations with the United States are based on common interests and are characterized by mutual understanding and respect. Our relations with the USSR have noticeably improved in the past few years as a result of President Gorbachev's new policies, which we follow with great attention.

Mr Speaker, brother and sister members of the venerable People's Assembly: This statement touched on six [as published] issues. As it reviews its accomplishments and programs in connection with these issues, the government trusts that discussions in your venerable assembly will play an important role, so that solutions can be based on a comprehensive vision. Overcoming the problems facing Egypt in both the economic and social fields means increasing production and productivity. This is in fact the only way to achieve a better standard of living and a dignified life which suits our ancient civilization and national resources.

It gives me honor to attach to this statement an appendix which reviews the government achievements in the various sectors in 1988-89. I would like you to read it so that you can see for yourselves the great achievements in the various fields.

An example of these achievements is the completion of the infrastructure of 160,000 feddans; the implementation of dozens of agricultural development projects in both the livestock and horticultural sectors; the development of water resources and the rationalization of irrigation systems; and manufacturing investment equipment, such as the construction of electric towers, the manufacturing ammonia and phosphoric acid components, making cement filters, and manufacturing sugar and distillation equipment. There was an increase in the total electric energy generated from approximately 37.9 billion to 40.2 billion kilowatt per hour. Electricity was supplied to 600,000 new subscribers, 300 km of railways were renovated, and 202,000 new telephone lines became operational in 1988-89. A total of 183,500 housing units were constructed by both the public and private sectors. Sixty-five elementary schools were built, increasing the absorption capacity at this stage to 96.5 percent. A program was launched to reform secondary school education, develop the curricula of vocational education, and coordinate it with training centers' courses. Other measures were taken to facilitate open higher education.

In the health field, 1,400 new beds were added, many hospitals were expanded and reequipped throughout the Republic, 70 rural health care centers were opened, and the national council for mother and child care was established to take care of the Egyptian child.

In the field of public utilities, the daily clean water supply increased from 9.3 to 10 million cubic meters per day between 1987-88 and 1988-89. Fourteen sewage projects were completed in cities which enjoyed this service for the first time.

In the legislative field, many pieces of legislation were enacted, as you know. The government intends to refer a number of bills and amendments to your venerable assembly in its current session. These include draft bills on the civil, commercial, and penal codes, as well as maritime law, registration fees, an amendment of penalties for rape, an amendment of the juvenile law, a draft bill on provisions in connection with checks, and another draft bill on public property. In addition, the government plans to present a draft bill to improve conditions for government and public sector employees.

Before I leave this rostrum, I would like to brief you on the standing of the capital-pooling companies. The number of natural and judicial persons to whom the transitional laws have been applied is 106. Fourteen of them have corrected their documents according to the articles of law and the status of six of them has been found satisfactory, while the status of the other eight, whose financial conditions do not allow them to carry on, has been rejected. Thus, they are obliged to refund the monies to the owners by no later than 9 June 1990.

On the other hand, a large number of companies have proposed timetables to refund monies to the depositors, and these companies are continuing to refund the money to the owners according to these timetables. However, the companies that have not provided satisfactory timetables for refunds have been referred to the public prosecutor.

Before and during the time the law's 146 provisions were in force, the socialist public prosecution office initiated certain actions against a total of 39 persons and companies after depositors complained. Also, seven other companies were recently referred to the socialist public prosecutor to preserve the depositors' money.

For its part, the government is doing its utmost to preserve the depositors' money and it will never waver in applying the law.

May God grant us all success for the benefit of Egypt and our great people.

Government achievements in the 1988-89 fiscal year:

1. The agricultural and land reclamation sector:

—The infrastructure has been completed for 160,500 feddans, including 85,500 feddans in the public sector and approximately 75,000 feddans in the private sector. A water source is being arranged for reclaimed lands. Approved selected seeds have been provided and distributed to cover 100 percent of the cotton and soya bean areas, 56 percent of the wheat area, 80 percent of the rice and onion areas, 37 percent of the broad beans area, 33 percent of the lentils area, and 40 percent of the groundnut area. Two agricultural mechanization stations have been established and eight other stations have been completed in the governorates. Thanks to these stations, various agricultural processes were conducted and 2.2 million pounds worth of agricultural machines were provided. The land improvement and maintenance association built and cleaned waterways in 219,000 feddans, or 97 percent of the target area (225,000 feddans); it conducted subsoil tillage for 228,000 feddans, or 91 percent of the target area (250,000 feddans); and it added 438,000 tons of (?calcium), or 88 percent of the target amount (500,000 tons). The government also provided different varieties of pesticides and compound fertilizers amounting to 6.5 million tons. Moreover, 67 batches of desert locusts and 650 types of larvae were combated. Four veterinary units were opened and eight other units were completed in the governorates. These units immunized 16 million heads of livestock and 170 million chickens and other kinds of poultry against epidemics.

—The national calves project produced approximately 130,000 heads in its fifth season. A total of 39,000 heads were marketed through the national meat company and 3,391 tons of milk were produced, 3,008 tons of which were marketed.

Poultry companies helped provide poultry meat and fodder, producing 260 million eggs which will become brood hens, 136 million hatched brood hens, 101 million chicks, 620 million chicks for sale, 203 million eggs which will become egg-laying hens, 187 million eggs for sale, 34 million breeding chicks, 32 million brood hens, and 10 million hens for slaughtering, in addition to duck and turkey production. Poultry processing factories produced approximately 378,000 tons of fodder and the Egyptian fishing company produced approximately 1,609 million tons at the value of 3,903 million pounds.

2. The water resources sector:

First, covered and open drainage networks:

Projects to expand and deepen main and open drainage were implemented in an area of 157,400 feddans of the targeted 157,400 [as published] feddans. Covered drainage networks were built on an area of 132,600 feddans of the targeted 146,000 feddans. Covered drainage networks whose lifespan has expired were replaced and renovated in an area of 12,000 feddans.

Second, water resources development projects:

The Nubariyah irrigation canal has been fed from the main canal and three bridges were built over the main canal. The construction of embankments along the course of the confluence of the canals under the bridges has been completed. The project aims to reuse the water from the main canal after it is mixed with water from the Nile River to feed the Nubariyah Canal at Km 46 to irrigate 150,000 feddans with a billion cubic meters of water annually.

The al-Zawiyah irrigation canal has been fed from the main canal in al-Gharbiyah governorate in order to irrigate an additional 17,000 feddans and improve irrigation in 100,000 other feddans. Concerning the use of artesian wells (140 wells): 10 wells have been dug in al-Gharbiyah governorate. The excavation of 13 other wells in Mallawi and Dayr Mawas in al-Minya governorate is almost completed. The excavation of 10 experimental wells is also nearly finished. Four other wells for drinking water have been excavated. [all numbers as published]

Third, projects to maintain available water resources:

A project for the economical use of irrigation systems, their administration, and the renovation of their installations. Approximately 1,000 industrial projects have been carried out. Concerning the strengthening of the

Nile barrages: The Asyut and Naj' Hammadi barrages have been strengthened. Work on the construction of al-Rayyah al-Tawfiqi bridge and the strengthening of the Dayrut, al-Minya, Matay, and al-Lahun barrages is almost finished.

The barrage, lock, dam, and power generating plant at Damietta have been completed. Work to eradicate weeds has also been carried out. Excavation and installation work for the fish farm at al-Shallal has been completed. Irrigation systems for 200,000 feddans of old farmland have been improved. A first and second renovation of water pump stations have been carried out.

Maintenance work has been done on the [Aswan] Dam and the Egyptian coastline.

3. The industry and mining sector:

The industry sector oversees 115 public industrial companies, distributed among the various public sector authorities as follows:

Number of companies	Public sector authority
31	textiles and clothes
19	food industries
27	chemical industries
19	engineering industries
10	mining industries
9	mining and thermal industries
Total	115

Work in the industry sector has handled major production issues in the past 5 years. Among the most important achievements made in the industry sector in 1988-89, in comparison with 1987-88, are the following:

4. The production sector:

The value of production in 1988-89 was 14 billion pounds compared to 11.6 billion pounds in 1987-88, representing a 20-percent increase of 2.4 billion pounds.

Sales during 1988-89 amounted to 13.6 billion pounds compared to 11.1 billion pounds in 1987-89, representing a 22-percent increase of 2.5 billion.

The value of exports in 1988-89 amounted to 2 billion pounds compared to 1.7 billion pounds in 1987-88. This represents an increase of 300 million pounds or an 18-percent growth rate. Production increased by 12 percent. The value of production during this year amounted to 838.7 million pounds, compared to 749.7 million pounds last year. Thus the scheduled targets, valued at 837.8 million pounds, have been fully realized. Furthermore, all the Armed Forces' requirements for arms and ammunition have been met. The goals of the civilian production plan, which covers the needs of various state sectors, have also been achieved. The number of people employed in these sectors totaled 55,767 this year compared with 55,221 last year. This represents a 1-percent increase. Their total wages amounted to 196 million pounds, an increase of 20 million pounds over last year.

The sector's [not further identified] companies have achieved a gross surplus amounting to 22 million pounds, compared to 25 million pounds last year. Investments totaling 264.5 million pounds were made, an increase of 138 percent over last year. This sum represents 54 percent of the total investments scheduled in the second 5-year plan.

5. The petroleum and mineral wealth sector:

First, the petroleum sector: A total of 20 new agreements (including 7 amended agreements) providing for prospecting for and exploiting petroleum in an area of approximately 42,000 square km in the Suez Gulf, the delta, and the western desert have been ratified. A total of 49.5 million tons of crude oil, gas, and their byproducts were produced this year so far. This represents 98 percent of this year's total target of 50.5 million tons, compared to 48.7 million tons in fiscal year 1986-87. Crude oil is being produced in several new fields in the Suez Gulf and western desert at an average rate of 16,000 barrels daily. Furthermore the operation of the second stage of the project for collecting the gaseous products [al-ghazat al-musahibah] for the Sinai area has begun. A total of 22.6 million tons of crude oil were treated in the refineries this year. The refineries produced about 21.5 million tons of petroleum products this year valued at 2.14 billion pounds. The local consumption of petroleum products this year was about 24.8 million tons (including 5.5 million tons of gases). This represents 98 percent of this year's target of 25.3 million tons. It is worth noting that the following lines were put into operation during 1988-89: The Abu Madi-Damietta gas line, the Bani Suwayf-al-Minya products line, and the sand brick factory gas line. The value of exports this year amounted to $1.4143 billion, or 107 percent of this year's target of $1.3185 billion dollars. The value of imports amounted to $586.3 million, or 88 percent of this year's target of $665 million. As a result, the petroleum sector has achieved a surplus in the balance of payments estimated at $827 million. The value of investments this year amounted to about 265 million pounds.

Second, the mineral wealth sector: A geological map of regional surveys of the mineral wealth operations has been prepared. Geological surveys have been carried out in the western desert, the eastern desert, and the Sinai.

6. The electricity and energy sector: The unified electrical network's maximum load in the period from 1 July 1988 to 30 June 1989 amounted to approximately 6,279 M [as published]. The total electrical energy produced by the generating stations linked to the main network was approximately 39,446 billion kilowatts during the same period.

—The electrical energy generated by thermal sources over the same period totaled approximately 30,581 billion kilowatt hours. The total electrical energy produced by hydroelectric sources in that period was

8,865 billion kilowatt hours. The total electrial energy sold in the same period amounted to about 34,318 billion kilowatt hours.

Regarding the electrification of villages, the electrical supply for 600 villages has been increased, 400 hamlets have been electrified, and 40 government projects have been implemented. Besides, urban networks have been consolidated, 22 electricity boards with the potential of 11 kilovolts have been built and are operating, and 600,000 new subscribers have been supplied with electricity.

—A contract has been signed with a consortium of the Canadian Atomic Energy Commission and the American company Bechtel for the transfer of technology so that nuclear and conventional power stations can be built and heavy water can be produced locally.

7. The construction sector:

The construction sector participates directly in all development projects. The sector's contribution to these plans amounts to 47 percent of the plan's investments and thus bears the largest share in implementing this plan. Therefore, enormous efforts and attention have been directed at remedying this sector's problems and raising its annual production.

8. The building, housing, and utilities sector:

Building:

—According to a preliminary report, the total of completed housing units by both the public and private sectors amounted to 183,505 units, of which 2,273 units were units that had been reconstructed. In addition, about 227.5 km of roads of various widths have been built. Work is under way to open about 484 km of roads in areas around greater Cairo, in addition to the 6 October road, the al-'Arish road, the Ra's al-Naqb-Tabah road, the Abu-Rudays-al-Tur road, the al-Hasanah-al-Qusaymah road, the internal road in al-Qantarah, the Bur Fu'ad-Sahl-al-Tinah road, the circular road in Port Said, the Alexandria-Matruh coastal highway, the 'Ajibah-al-Nakhilah road, the Burj-al-'Arab-al-'Amiriyah al-Jadidah road, the second phase of the Abu-Minqar road west of al-Mawhub, and internal roads in al-Dakhilah and al-Kharijah oases.

—Regarding utilities in the construction areas, work is now under way on the main water purification plant west of the tunnel [not further identified]. In addition, 7.5 km of pipes have been laid in the 10-km long Lahqan-Sad al-Rawafi' al-Qusaymah water line. Also, 4.9 km of pipes of various widths have been fitted to the water line coming from the filtering plant in al-'Amiriyah.

Regarding sewage, 3 km of pipes have been laid in the 21-km long al-Qantarah East sewage network and 7.5 km of pipes have been laid in the 8-km long al-Salam sewage network in al-'Arish. Furthermore, work is under way on the al-Tur sewage network.

As far as electricity is concerned, 15 km of medium- and low- tension cables have been installed. Work is under way to set up five plants in Abu Zanimah, Abu Rudays, Sant Katrin, Tabah, and Firan in Sainai. Work is also under way to complete the the 36-km long network on the northern coast and to complete the electrical plant on the northwestern coast.

As for land reclamation, 5,000 feddans of land have been sold as a first stage in the creation of the new town of Mit Abu al-Kawm. The land is being handed over to the Egyptian expatraites society. Seventy percent of the al-Ra'id project in western Suez to reclaim 2,100 feddans has been completed.

The New Cities [as published]:

Approximately 228.5 km of main and subsidiary water networks have been installed; approximately 132.7 km of main and subsidiary sanitary drainage networks and disposal lines have been laid; approximately 141 km of main, tributary, and regional asphalt roads have been built; and approximately 689 km of medium- and low-voltage networks of cables have been installed in the new cities. In the field of public services, two bakeries were built in the cities of 6 October and Burj al-'Arab al-Jadidah; 4 nursery schools were built in the cities of 15 May and 6 October; 9 schools of various kinds were constructed in the cities of 10 Ramadan, 15 May, and 6 October, and al-Sadat; 6 comercial complexes were built in the cities of 10 Ramadan, 15 May, 6 October, and Burj al-'Arab al-Jadidah; 4 medical centers were set up in the cities of 6 October, Burj al-'Arab, and Dumyat al-Jadidah; and 10 mosques were built in the cities of 15 May, al-Sadat, 6 October, and Burj al-'Arab. In addition, 7,965 apartments were built in the new cities, and 42,984 more are under construction, of which 13,584 are owned by the New Cities Authority; 94 plots of land have been allocated for the construction of factories in the new cities, and 142 factories have started production, providing employment for 6,457 workers.

Housing [as published]:

1. Public utilties: Work is under way to complete the al-Buhayrah project, which is partly financed by the World Bank 1156 "Egypt" [as published] and which is made up of 29 contracts. In addition, 14 sanitary drainage projects have been implemented in cities where sanitary drainage was introduced for the first time. Loans and a grant in the amount of 100 million Deutsche Marks supplied by the German Construction Bank [K.F.W] enabled expansion of the water treatment project in Kafr al-Shaykh. Expansion work at the Qina/Safaja plant [not further specified] is expected to be completed by 3/6/89 [date as published]. The second stage of the sanitary drainage work in the town of Minuf and in three new projects (in al-Zarqa-Basyun-Faraskur) is in progress. The sanitary drainage authority in Alexandria completed a number of vitally important projects.

2. Building materials' sector: This sector has increased production in the various materials by between 9.3 and 18.7 percent.

9. The transport and communications sector:

First, transport:

—Three hundred km of railways were renovated and the distance between Cairo and Qalyub has been squared. We provided three locomotives with spare parts, 752 freight cars trucks, and 29 air-conditioned passenger cars. We also improved the Hulwan railway line and constructed the necessary bridges. Work is also under way on the north Turah bridge. Seven electric feeding stations have been inaugurated and an eighth station is under construction in the al- Malik al-Salih area. As for work on extending the two-way Sawhaj-Qina-Luxor line, work has been completed on the stretch of the line between Sawhaj and Naj' Hammadi. The old line has been repaired, and work has been completed on bridges and tunnels. Work is under way on 92 km representing the distance between Naj' Hammadi and Faw and between Asyut and Sawhaj.

As part of the first stage of the underground railway project, the main tunnel and its stations were completed and delivered. In the second stage, the Hulwan line was developed, the railways were modernized and reorganized, and signal blocks and electric control rooms were completed.

The following projects were also completed: the renovation and strengthening of weak bridges like Dusuq bridge, and the completion of the third lane of the Shubra-Banha road. The Port Said-Ismailia road is almost finished. In addition, other projects were launched to improve the Cairo-Aswan waterway.

Second, communications:

The total number of automatic, semi-automatic, and manual dialing telephone lines which entered service during the period from 1 July 1988 to 30 June 1989 reached 202,000. This brings the total number of communication lines in the country to 1,731,488.

Automatic dialing was supplied for 148 cities and governorates. Public service telephones increased by 393 lines, 232 payphones for local calls and 43 payphones for long-distance calls.

—As for the central Sinai microwave network (with a 72-channel capacity), the al-Nakhl-Bi'r Hasanah-al-Qusaymah connection was installed in early September 1988. The Tabah microwave circuits were increased by 36, making a total of 60 circuits. The final stage of the al-'Aqabah-Cairo network has been completed.

—The number of circuits in the international telephone exchange was increased by 157, bringing the total number to 1,753 circuits. Subscribers in the international automatic dialing system in the governorates increased by 3,998, and 31 new subscribers joined the data transfer service, bringing the total number of subscribers to 112. Telefax subscribers increased by 2,246, bringing the total number to 3,476 subscribers. Sixty-five circuits have been installed in the satellite ground stations in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, bringing the total to 777 circuits. The number of television programs transmitted via these circuits reached 613.

Third, maritime transport:

The ship "'Aydah" was renovated and repaired, and repair and maintenance work was completed in the navigation aid equipment in the Gulf of Suez. The grain dock was expanded to enhance the capacity of al-Adabiyah port; work to improve the efficiency of Nuwayba' port was completed; the Alexandria port, cold storage facility, and land and maritime transport means were renovated; and work was resumed in dock No 5 to enhance its capacity. In Port Said, the lighting fixtures of al-Sultan Husayn dock were renovated; two giant cranes were provided, and the 'Abbas and Sharif docks were developed. Work was also undertaken to enhance the capacity of Damietta port; the ship "Ruru 5" was launched, and 120 trailers were bought.

10. The tourist sector:

In the field of tourism planning and development:

The ministry sought the help of certain consultative bureaus to undertake the studies necessary for planning five new tourist areas which will be offered to investors to build hotels and tourist projects. The Ministry of Tourism signed a contract with investors to construct five tourist villages. A contract to construct eight more villages is under consideration.

In the field of hotel and tourist installations:

The ministry inspected the various hotels and tourist installations in different areas. The permits for these installations were renewed, their accounts were audited, and the foreign exchange authority was notified of their foreign debts.

In the field of propaganda and information:

The Ministry of Information and its bureaus in the Republic and abroad respond to inquiries from various quarters. It is using political, tourist, and cultural events to promote tourism in Egypt and to communicate with Arab and international tourist institutions. It also signs agreements on tourism with various countries and participates in conferences, festivals, and tourist nights in Arab and foreign countries.

The ministry's efforts succeeded in increasing the number of tourists, the number of nights tourist spend here, and bank transfers in 1988-89. Tourists increased by 8.5 percent, the number of nights tourists spend here increased by 16.9 percent, and tourist bank transfers by 16.4 percent. In the sphere of tourist projects, the Ministry of Tourism oversaw the development for tourism purposes of Luxor and Abu-Sunbul and the Egyptian Museum. This project is now nearly completed. Public sector tourism and hotel companies are establishing some hotel and tourist projects in various areas and completing, renovating, and expanding other projects.

The civil aviation sector:

The Ministry of Civil Aviation and its departments, such as the Egyptian Civil Aviation Authority, the Cairo Airport Authority, the Meteorological Authority, and the National Training Institution, have achieved numerous projects in various fields of aviation and aerial transport, and made technical and navigational advances, such as developing the various Egyptian airports and modernizing their equipment and units in order to keep up with the increased tourist traffic and to make weather forecasts. They have carried out meteorological research, participated in scientific symposiums and courses, and offered instruction in meteorology at universities and institutes of higher learning. They have also purchased two planes, carried out maintenance work on some engines, and completed the pilots' building.

The health sector:

All necessary precautions against summer diseases were taken and a strategic reserve of preventive medicines was provided. In this way the summer of 1988 passed without any seasonal epidemics. The necessary serums for the vaccination of children throughout the country were provided, and approximately 850,000 children under the age of 2 years were vaccinated. All necessary measures were taken to prevent the spread of a meningitis epidemic. Measures continued to fight the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome [AIDS] and the higher committee for fighting AIDS drew up a national prevention plan for this purpose. A national plan to fight tetanus among pregnant women was carried out and 3 million women were vaccinated. An antimalaria plan was implemented in al-Fayyum. Four quarantine launches for this purpose were also equipped for use in Suez, Alexandria, Port Said, and Damietta. Twenty-five portable radio sets will be provided to facilitate quarantine measures. Sanitary procedures pertaining to food supply imports have been followed up in coordination with the the Agriculture, Supply, and Trade Ministries. Measures pertaining to the release of food imports by the customs authorities have been followed up. Foodstuffs on the local markets have been supervised.

The High Dam artificial lake was examined in order to locate the breeding places of Gambia and other mosquito larvae. The endemic diseases hospital and basic care units carried out 5,870,576 examinations in Upper Egypt and 6,030,412 in Lower Egypt, and provided treatment where bilharzia was found to be present. The number of antibilharzia doses amounted to 3,507,063, and anti-intestinal parasite doses amounted to 1,236,085. Specialists also examined 2,378,052 pupils and provided treatment where necessary. The free one-dose treatment with parasiquantyl [as published] was made generally available in all units.

The authorities also inspected 3,627,043 water channels extending for 2,424,415 km. Three health units were developed into rural hospitals and 12 rural health units were opened in the governorates. Moreover, 11 new health centers were built in Damietta, Qina, Port Said, al-Buhayrah, al-Gharbiyah, and al-Daqahliyah. The ministry also provides all types of imported and local contraceptives.

As for developing and renovating services centers, seven health units have been repaired and renovated in al-Sharqiyah governorate and work is under way in 12 more units; 83 prefabricated clinics were established in schools and work is under way for 91 more clinics. Handicapped pupils were supplied with supplementary and compensatory equipment. In addition to that, al-Hilal Hospital was opened and began operating with a capacity of 280 beds on 2 February 1989. Construction work in al-Haram Hospital was completed and the necessary equipment to enable it to function with a capacity of 313 beds was due to be ready by October 1989. Al-'Ajuzah Hospital was also developed and work is already under way in the Nasir Institute's Egyptian-French maintenance center. A new 100-bed ward has been added and separate buildings of a nursing secondary school are also being constructed in the institute with a $4-million Kuwaiti grant. A number of hospitals were developed in the governorates and new artificial kidney centers became operational.

The total value of medicine production up to 30 June 1989 reached 582.3 million Egyptian pounds, representing a 100.6 million pound increase on last year's figure. Medicine exports reached 41.2 million pounds in 30 June 1989, an increase of 15.1 million pounds.

The education and higher education sector:

First, education:

In the basic education stage, 7,487 clasrooms have been added, 5,511 in the elementary stage and 1,976 in the preparatory stage. For the secondary education stage 1,669 classrooms have been added, 1,280 in the technical schools and 419 in the general education schools.

In cooperation with the U.S. International Development Cooperation Agency, 65 new basic education schools were built in 1988-89 in all parts of the republic, including remote areas. A nationwide campaign to eradicate illiteracy and promote adult education was carried out.

Enrollment during the school year 1988-89:

Out of 1,341,000 pupils subject to compulsory education, 1,294,065 pupils were enrolled in the first elementary class. This represents an absorption capacity of 96.5 percent with an increase of 0.1 percent over the projected absorption plan. In the first class of the preparatory cycle 639,350 students were enrolled, representing 99.3 percent of those who had passed the elementary education examination.

In the secondary schools 440,250 students were enrolled in the first secondary class in both government and private schools. They represent 90 percent of those who had passed the examination for the basic education certificate in 1988. The number of students admitted to general secondary schools was 165,250, representing 37.5 percent of all admissions, while those enrolled in technical secondary schools numbered 275,000 representing 62.5 percent of all admissions.

The Education Ministry's policy aims to increase the percentage of admissions to technical secondary schools to 70 percent of all admissions and to decrease admissions to general secondary education schools to 30 percent by the end of the 5-year plan (1987/88- 1991/92).

In the experimental language schools 4,800 children were enrolled in kindergartens, 4,230 in elementary classes, and 1,730 in preparatory classes. For the first time 280 students were enrolled in secondary experimental language schools.

The education process necessitated the passing of a number of laws and presidential decrees. Furthermore, new types of schools were established: preparatory vocational and sports schools and experimental introductory secondary schools. Higher educational institutions to train elementary school teachers were also established.

A policy for university education has been developed. The material resources and equipment needed by the universities have been provided. A branch for elementary education has been set up at the education colleges. A center for higher education research and study has been set up to provide a sound scientific information base necessary for developing education.

The sectoral programs:

1. Agriculture and land reform sector:

The second 5-year plan defines the most important pillars for the development of the agrifcultural sector in the 1989-90 plan as follows:

Vertical development:

To produce selected high-yield, good quality, and disease-resistant seeds, because they constitute one of the basic factors in increasing production. The plan envisages covering all areas planted with cotton, rice, and soya beans with the selected seeds. It also calls for exports to reach 80 percent of the yield of the area planted with wheat, 50 percent of the yield of the area planted with soya beans, 40 percent of the yield of the area planted with peanuts, and 15 percent of the yield of the areas planted with barley and sesame.

To restore fertility to agricultural lands where production has fallen and where a layer of soil blocking plant growth has been formed because of the excessive or unnecessary use of irrigation water and chemical fertilizers. This will be done by implementing an integrated program to improve the fertility of these lands.

To expand the establishment of service stations for machinery provided with the most up-to-date equipment and to set up mechanization training centers to give guidance to the private sector which is responsible for the expansion of the Egyptian agricultural mechanization.

To increase the productivity of newly cultivated land, where production is still below the required level, and to seek solutions to the problems and obstacles which prevent these areas from attaining economic maturity to become a new source of land to be added to and strengthening the existing area.

To give a push to the poultry industry and end the bottlenecks impeding its progress.

To expand the traditional fish farms depending on drainage water and provide the necessary fishing equipment.

Horizontal development:

It is planned to implement the superstructure of an area of 160,000 feddans in the year 1989-90 while taking into consideration the following:

—Focusing on coordination in implementing agrarian reform projects among the various ministries which share responsibility for implementing these projects.

2. The public works and water resources sector:

To establish covered drainage networks in an area of 190,000 feddans, expand and deepen the open drainage networks in an area of 190,000 feddans, and replace and renovate the drainage networks in an area of 40,000 feddans.

To complete the projects of developing the water resources for feeding the al-Nubariyah canal from the al-'Umum drainage, the al-Zawiyah canal from al-Gharbiyah main drainage, and Bahr Wahbi from al-Bats draiange; make use of subterranean waters for irrigating the new areas in al-Minya, al-Minufiyah, and al-Gharbiyah; and complete the al-Karm dam in Sinai to serve 1,063 feddans.

To implement projects for the wise use of the irrigation systems and their management and the replacement and renovation of their installations and develop the irrigation system in an area of 200,000 feddans.

To complete the project to protect Egyptian beaches along the al-Rashid shore, at the Abu Qir marine dam, and the coastal strip between Port Said and Damietta, as well as the beaches of some governorates.

3. The industrial sector:

The plan is intended to raise the value of industrial production [al-intaj al-sina'i] from 23,971.5 million pounds in 1988-9 to 25,524.7 million pounds in 1989-90, or an average growth rate of 6.5 percent. Units of the public and private sectors are sharing equally in achieving this production growth. It is estimated that industrial output [al-natij al-sina'i] will reach about

8,595.5 million pounds compared to about 7,985.7 million pounds expected in 1988-89, an average growth of 7.6 percent. [sentence as published]

In the food industry field, the 1989-90 plan focuses on the preserved foods industry to meet needs during periods of seasonal declines in vegetable and fruit production and to overcome sharp fluctuations in prices.

In the textile field, the plan pays special attention to the production of ready-made clothes in quantity and quality and to meeting consumer needs for different styles of clothing to satisfy consumers' differing tastes, in both the local and export markets. This is in addition to improving the quality of production and keeping up with technological advancements in the textile industry.

With regard to the chemical industries, the plan devotes attention to meeting the need for chemical fertilizers by providing such plants with assistance to modernize and expand. Production of nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers is projected to increase by about 524,000 tons.

Regarding engineering industries, the plan aims to subsidize the production of machinery and equipment earmarked for production as well as subsidizing spare parts. It also seeks to increase the percentage of locally made components in existing industries and to improve the quality of locally produced goods.

Investment Services:

About 4,229 million pounds are planned for investing in industrial projects from 1989-90; of this amount, about 5,239 million pounds are for the public sector and about 1,680 million pounds for the private sector [figures as published]. These investments total 29.2 percent of the investment volume of the 1989-90 plan.

The share of investment services in the public sector is equal to 26.5 percent of total public sector investment.

Among the most important industrial projects contained in the plan are the following:

-The Food Industries:

Work will be continued on refurbishing the Qaha plant. This plant began production in 1986-7 with a production capacity for 7,000 tons of juice. This is in addition to producing the necessary tin cans. An investment of about 4.3 million pounds has been allocated for this project.

Work will be continued on the Jarja sugar plant project. This plant began production in 1986-7 with a 18,000-ton capacity for sugar.

The Egypt [Biskhu] Company's foil [al-suyuf] factory in Alexandria: This project began production in 1987-8 with a 4,000-ton capacity. When it becomes fully operational in 1989-90, its production capacity will reach 10,000 tons.

-The Textile Industries:

A unit for producting weaving threads at the Arab and United Company is expected to begin partial production in 1989-90 with capacity for 300 tons of thread.

4. The oil sector:

Production: The 1989-90 plan aims for production of crude oil and natural and compressed gas to reach around 51.1 million tons, an increase of 1.2 tons from the expected 49.9 million ton production for 1988-89.

Investment services: The 1989-90 plan involves investment services for the oil sector estimated at 157.8 million pounds, allotted as follows: 27.4 million pounds, or 17.4 percent, for replacement and renewal plans; 83 million pounds, or 52.6 percent, for completing projects; and 47.4 million pounds, or 30 percent, for new projects.

Out of the investments allocated for the sector, 46.7 percent, estimated at 73.8 million pounds, has been allocated for investment in exploration, production, and development projects. Investments totalling around 83.9 million pounds have been allocated for refinery projects.

The most important projects: The 1989-90 plan includes a number of projects to be completed, the most important of which follow:

The Musturud-al-Tabbin-Asyut line to tranport products to the areas of consumption; the (Shuqayr)-Asyut line; and the transport of butane gas to (al-Qattamiyah) for packing and storing of the gas; the communications and telecommunications project and network. [as published];

Around 35,000 clients in 1989-90 (14,000 clients east of the Nile and 21,000 clients west of the Nile) will be supplied with natural gas.

5. The electricity and energy sector:

First, in production the aim is to increase electricity production to 42.6 billion kilowatt hours [kwh], including 34.35 billion kwh from thermal resources and around 8.25 billion kwh from hydroelectrical resources. Moreover, electricity is produced in the areas not connected to the unified grid.

Second, in the field of electricity generating plants, the aim is to increase the capacity of new generating plants by around 1,060 megawatts [MW]. These plants are the fourth unit at the 'Ataqah power plant with a 325-MW capacity, a gas unit at the south Cairo unit with a 110-MW capacity, two gas units at the Damietta plant with a combined capacity of 240 MW, the Marsa Matruh power generating plant with a 60-MW capacity, and the third unit for the Damanhur power plant with a 325-MW capacity.

Third, in the field of rural electrification and boosting the cities' grids:

A. For rural electrification, the focus is on extending electricity lines to 330 villages and 200 hamlets, installing 200 km of 11 kilovolt [kv] main lines, and replacing and renewing lines in 600 villages.

B. In boosting the cities' grids, the aim is to put up eight 11- kv distribution panels, to install 225 complete 11-kv transformer boxes, to lay down 213 km of 11-kv low capacity land cables, and to put up 360 km of 11-kv low capacity aerial cables.

Fourth, in the nuclear field the aim is to complete studies on the nuclear program for generating electricity, particularly on siting plants and their equipment and to proceed with implementing the study recommendations while stressing the need to absorb nuclear technology.

Fifth, in the field of electrical industries the goal is to establish a factory for local production of electrical equipment. Tests are now under way and actual production is expected to start in the year 1989-90.

Studies for building factories that will produce switches and 66-kilovolt circuit breakers, electrical isolator switches using local raw material, and electrical meters to meet the needs of the local market are being carried out.

6. The transport, communications, and telecommunications sector:

1. Telecommunications:

A total of 325,000 new telephone lines will be added.

Approximately 200,000 new lines for subscribers will be installed.

2. Road projects:

The 63-km long (al-Qattamiyah)-Bi'r Udayb road, the Ismailia-Port Said two-lane highway (central al-Qantarah), the road linking the village of Bimban with Faris, and 31 km of the desert-al-Khatatibah road at km 84 will be constructed and paved. Eight km of the highway from Banha to Harah Thalithah in Quwaysina will be widened, repaired, and surfaced. Forty-six km of the Asyut road from km [figure not published] to km 66 will be reinforced and surfaced.

3. The railroad program for the year 1989-90:

A. The completion and extension of the railroad in the direction of al-Manzilah. It is expected to be ready on 15 October 1989 [as published].

The railroad to al-Matariyah station is expected to be extended on 30 November 1989 [as published].

Work on the last bridge will be completed by the end of 1989.

B. The old Sawhaj-Naj' Hammadi express railroad line will be renovated.

Work at three stations, including rail and signal works, was completed on 31 October 1989. Work will continue on the two-track Haj' Hammadi-Luxor railroad line and is scheduled to be completed in 1990.

The signals on the Abu Qir line will be electrified and the signals on the Imbabah-Ityay al-Barud line improved.

4. Overland passenger and cargo transport in the governorates:

—Passenger transport in the governorates:

Intercity passenger transport companies will be boosted by approximately 180 local-and foreign-made buses. A total of 110 tractor trailers will be supplied to the cargo transport companies as replacements.

5. River transport:

Clearing and removing obstacles in the Nubariyyah canal.
Gulf Cooperation Council Summit Held in Muscat
Developing the river route between Cairo and Aswan.
Developing the river route between Port Said and al-Matariyah.
Developing the navigational route at the Damietta branch of the Nile.
Importing equipment to service the navigational line and communications equipment for the navigational line between the High Dam and the Halfa Valley.

6. Maritime transport:

Developing the fire-fighting and lighting network utilities in the Suez port.
Building walls for the customs building in the Sharm al-Shaykh port.
Increasing the capacity of the al-Adabiyah port by adding two docks and one tugboat and increasing the capacity of the al-Nuwaybi' port.
Extending the al-Nuwaybi' dock to handle more traffic.
Alexandria port:
Renovating the lampposts, docks, and refrigeration compartment.
Renovating land and maritime transport facilities, deepening the seabed at the docks, and paving the streets, yards, bridge, and breakwater.
Port Said port:
Paving the roads and yards, increasing the port's capacity, and renovating the existing port facilities (developing the Sharif and 'Abbas docks), and completing the construction of dock No 8 and its equipment.
Damietta port:
Increasing the capacity of the port (deepening the bed and routes and raising the height of the breakwater), paving 4 km of roads within the port area, improving the capacity of the port by increasing the communications and fire-fighting equipment, and developing the ports depots.

7. The tourism sector:

Completion of overall planning for tourist areas. Continued promotion of charter flights and the preparation of a comprehensive study by experts on tourism, the economy, and banking on ways to estimate revenue from tourism. Drawing up a training plan to raise the standard of workers in the tourist and hotel industry to provide the necessary trained manpower for tourist installations and projects expected to become operational in the next few years.

The establishment of an international center for tourist and hotel education and training with the participation of certain friendly countries. The establishment of a tourist regional database. A contract is to be signed with a computer center to control monetary remittances from hotels and tourist companies.

The establishment of an independent body to be called the General Egyptian Authority for Tourist Services in which members of the tourist business sector will participate on the board of directors.

The Higher Tourism Council will be reorganized and renamed the National Council for Tourism and Aviation. It will include the parties concerned to achieve the desired goals. Certain areas in the Port Said and Red Sea governorates will be considered tourist areas.

8. The reconstruction, utilities, and housing sector:

First: Building approximately 2,100 housing units in Sinai, the northwestern coast, greater Cairo, the New Valley governorate, and the Red Sea governorate.

Paving 325 km of roads in greater Cairo, Sinai, the northern coast, the New Valley governorate, the Red Sea governorate, and the High Dam Lake area.

Opening six schools, seven mosques, four medical units, seven police stations, five city and village municipal councils, and two social units in Sinai.

Second, new towns:

For potable water, complete two pumping stations and two reservoirs; continue work on six pumping stations, six purification plants, one well station, and seven reservoirs; and start work on a purification plant, one well station, and two reservoirs.

Concerning sewage, complete six pumping stations and one sewage treatment plant; continue work on nine pumping stations and one treatment plant; and start work on four pumping stations, two treatment plants, and two oxidization plants.

In the services sector, complete around 20 nurseries, 20 schools, 18 market centers, two hospitals, four health units, 15 mosques, four social units, five sports clubs, two cultural palaces and an assembly hall, two civil administration buildings, and one police and fire station.

In housing, complete around 10,000 housing units and continue work on 69,745 units.

Third, housing and utilities:

In the housing field, the plan aims for 300,000 housing unit starts by the public and private sectors.

For potable water, the aim is for the daily production of potable water in the entire country to reach 10,750 million cubic meters a day.

For sewage disposal, it is intended to complete the first stages of the al-Birkah treatment plant in the al-Jabal al-Asfar area and of the Shubra al-Khaymah treatment plant and to continue implementing the project to replace, renew, and build the networks and plants in Alexandria.

Regarding the other governorates, new 14 treatment plants are being completed in towns that will have sewage disposal for the first time.

Fourth, for construction material, the aim is to produce (15,450 million tons) [brackets and figure as published] locally during 1989-90 from the public sector companies and the Suez cement company and to stop importing cement from abroad with the exception of the contracts already concluded with Jordan and Iraq. There will be self sufficiency in cement beginning in 1989-90, and exports will be possible in return for the imports from Jordan and Iraq.

It is expected to operate three cement lines, each with 1-million ton capacity. These lines are (Asyut-al-Minya-Bani Suwayf 1) and also the Al-Minya project for white cement with an annual capacity of 200,000 tons.

9. The health sector:

First, preventive services:

Intensifying efforts to ensure the most possible children are given basic vaccinations against six lethal diseases;

Launching a national compaign to vaccinate pregnant women against tetanus during November and December 1989, starting implementation of a plan to eradicate infantile polio by 1994, continuing preventive measures against AIDS, summer diseases, and meningitis;

Completing the development of 13 hospitals for infectious diseases and replacing the Tatna hospital for infectious diseases, starting development of 11 hospitals for infectious diseases, and developing five medical offices.

Second, basic medical care:

Completing the development of 20 medical units into village hospitals and starting to develop 19 unit into village hospitals; establishing and equipping 75 new medical units (in 16 governorates); starting to establish and equip 10 new units (in 7 governorates);

Completing replacement of 23 rural medical units (in 12 governorates) and starting to replace 25 rural units (in 17 governorates);

Supplying 67 units for care of mothers and children in five governorates with scanning units to diagnose early hazards to mothers and and fetuses.

Third, family planning:

During 1989-90, the Health Ministry will try to protect 552,222 women of child-bearing age from unwanted pregnancy and will continue to provide various means of contraception in all service units.

Fourth, treatment and urgent services:

Expansion of the medical treatment establishment law (paid treatment for those who can afford it and free treatment for those who cannot, providing job opportunities for young doctors, and competing with the private sector and preventing its excesses).

Completing, equipping, and supplying the hospitals of al-Haram, Shubra al-Jadidah, Kafr al-Shaykh, Damietta, and al-Qanatir with 1093 beds.

Fifth, medicines:

Ensuring that local production of medicines (from the public, private, and joint sectors) will cover 90.2 percent of the country's needs (totalling 1322 million pounds).

Sixth, health insurance:

Expansion of health insurance to cover new segments and numbers of citizens. It is hoped that health insurance will cover students.

10. The education sector:

First, the new classes:

The basic education stage:

The plan intends to add 700 new classrooms in free government and private schools to cope with expansion. In view of the fact that 12,000 classrooms have been spared as a result of abolishing the sixth form in elementary education, the net number of classrooms spared totals 11,300, which will be used in preparatory school for students who pass the fifth form.

The secondary stage and parallel level: The plan provides for opening 1559 new classrooms in the secondary schools and various technical schools.

The formal experimental language schools:

The 1989-90 plan provides for opening 25 classrooms in the nursery language schools, 20 elementary classrooms, 85 preparatory classrooms, and 25 secondary classrooms.

Second, enrollment in 1989-90:

The basic education stage:

Around 1,326,000 students, or 96.8 percent of all those eligible for compulsory education, are expected to be enrolled, compared to the 1,294,065, or 96.5 percent, accepted in 1988-89.

Around 1,700,000 students are expected to be enrolled in 1989-90 in the first year of government and equivalent preparatory schools.

The number of those who will be accepted in general and technical government and both free and charging private secondary schools is expected to total around 468,500 students.

The experimental language schools:

Around 6,000 children are scheduled to be enrolled in the languages nurseries. The plan seeks to accept 5,000 students in the elementary schools, compared to 4,597 accepted in 1988-89.

The plan also aims to accept 4,350 students in the preparatory schools compared to 1,893 accepted last year and 1,000 students in the secondary schools compared to 359 students accepted in 1988-89.

Second, [as published] higher education:

To provide applied science colleges in all universities with workshops and equipment; to establish a center for academic improvement in each university and educational colleges in al-Munifiyah and Asyut; and to start the formation of the public committee for the Alexandria library.

To establish higher technological institutes in Banha and 10 Ramadan City, an industrial education college in Cairo, and the higher institute for water stations in Aswan.

11. The social insurances sector:

To combat evading participation in insurance. The number of those insured is expected to reach 14 million citizens.

To extend the insurance coverage to all Egyptians working abroad and to review the comprehensive social security system which will cover the working class sectors not covered by the pension and social security laws.

The foreign currency income from participation is expected to reach $200 million after amending the social security law to include those working abroad.

12. The social affairs sector:

The overall investments of the Ministry of Social Affairs in 1989-90 is around 12.7 million pounds, distributed as follows:

Family and childhood projects represent 32 percent of overall investments. The aim is to build 45 nurseries (for children and infants), 30 children's libraries, two children's parks, and a house for the aged, and to complete setting up the society for integrated services for the family and children.

The family-based production and vocational training projects represent 19 percent of overall investments. The aim is to make more loans to family-based production units, to establish 10 centers for the vocational training of productive families, and to renew seven centers for vocational training.

13. The Awqaf sector:

The Awqaf Ministry is continuing with its implementation of existing plan to complete and refurbish mosques, renovate its printing press, establish halls for ceremonies, develop the boys and girls institutes, and buy a number of vehicles to be used in the enlightenment campaign and passenger cars for the regional administrations. The plan also calls for creating institutions to prepare preachers and for starting construction of a preachers hospital in Heliopolis.

Details of the allocations in the 5-year plan follow:

Completion of 32 mosques currently under construction at a cost of 2,410,000 pounds.

Refurbishment of 75 mosques, on which work is in progress, and supporting Islamic call and thought (furnishing 300 libraries and buying books for them) at a cost of 180,000 pounds. The establishment of three halls for ceremonies, completing the work on the ministry's printing press, developing the girls and boys institutes, buying cars for enlightenment campaign and passenger cars for regional administrations, and the establishment of an institute for the training of preachers and a hospital for the ulema and awqaf workers.

14. The Justice Sector:

A. Following up bills and agreements which have not been issued yet.

B. The pertinent committees in the Justice Ministry are carrying out studies on the following bills:
—A bill amending the provisions of the penal law for rape.
—A bill concerning juveniles. The bill will not allow juveniles who had not reached the 18 at the time of their sentencing to be sentenced to hard labor and will allow a juvenile to continue serving his sentence in a reformatory even if he reaches 21, unless his continuation there poses a danger.
—A bill regulating check transactions. A bill to control the departure of wanted persons from the country and to list the names of fugitives at arrival points. A bill amending some of the arbitration provisions in the civil and commercial actions law No 13 of 1968 and the public sector societies and companies law.
—A bill adding a fifth section to the penal code concerning international judicial cooperation on criminal provisions. It will cover warrants, the extradition of criminals, and the transfer of convicted criminals from one country to another to continue their sentences.
—A bill on state property aimed at providing guarantees to the state by listing state-owned land and preparing a permanent record of these lands to prevent any infringement on them.

15. The scientific research sector:

It has been agreed with the Ministry of Reconstruction to allocate suitable pieces of land in the 6 October and 10 Ramadan cities on which the technical and technological consultancy, study, and research fund of the Ministry of Scientific Research will set up a number of small production projects for which the ministry has undertaken feasibility studies.

The National Research Center continues to work on a large number of applied research projects that directly serve the development plan. For example, it continues to work on improving citrus and banana crops and developing the production of sorghum.

The Sea Science Institute is evaluating fish stock and organizing natural catches in a number of important locations. In order to increase fish production, it is organizing fishing operations in over-exploited areas.

The National Standards Institute is continuing its activity in providing special scientific and technological services that directly serve industrial applications.

16. The information sector:

First; the radio and television union:

I. In the field of television and radio transmission and program relay networks:
a. Replacing the microwave system for relaying programs from Cairo to the network terminals with a new multi-channel system for the use of television programs and 50 radio channels.
b. Introducing the optic fiber system for transmitting programs between the studios and the main transmission center.
c. Replacing the medium-wave station for the Middle East with a 7.25 MW station.
d. Establishing television relay stations as follows: 1) A station for the central Sinai project. 2) A station to cover weak pockets in the al-Hammam area on the northern coast and the Marsa 'Alam area on the Red Sea.
e. Completing the repeater relay stations in Port Said and al-Ghardaqah for the musical, European, and Holy Koran programs and for the local station in Suez.

II. Concerning studios:
a. Buying an outside broadcast van for radio and television coverage of the opera house performances and other events.
b. Replacing the furnishings of the Channel 3 television studio in al-Muqattam.

III. In the field of regional broadcasts: Completing the first phase of the studios of the al-Wadi al-Jadid and Matruh stations.

IV. In the field of training and research: Personal computers will be introduced to develop training programs and accountancy methods in the applications of technical and administrative activity of radio engineering.

Second, the Public Information Authority:

Work is under way on a number of projects to build information centers. These centers will provide advanced information service and communicate the media message to the Egyptian citizen in a modern way.

17. The cultural sector:

Completion of work in the Cultural and Educational Center (opera house), the Cultural Information Center, the Children's Cultural Garden [as published], Modern Art Museum, the Academy of Art in Rome, and the National Cinema Center.

Construction, renovation, and modernization of movie theaters and playhouses. Completion of work in the art museums, the buildings housing the national library and the national archives, and the renovation work at the printing press authority.

18. The Ministry of Immigration:

Efforts were resumed and intensified to prepare a complete record containing comprehensive data on Egyptian immigrants and workers in various countries. In addiion to numerical statistics, the record specifies categories, expertise, specializations, and other relevant information.

An advanced system for integrated care using highly efficient new methods is being implemented to ensure the flow and continuity of the various services needed by Egyptian expatriates.

Conferences, seminars, and field visits are being organized in this area. The necessary care and support are provided for the Egypt in 2000 conference, which meets every 2 years in the homeland.

Measures are under way to strengthen the General Federation for Egyptian Expatriates and to intensify its efforts in order to serve national, social, cultural, and scientific goals.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Calls for Third Round of Peace Talks

EA0201162790 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2145 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC], witnessed [words indistinct] in front of the house of the leader Isma'il al-Azhari, on the 34th anniversary of independence. [passage omitted]

In his address, Lt Gen 'Umar described the role of the post-independence governments, saying they had (?greatly contributed) to strengthening independence, but had failed to give the Sudanese (?masses) independence of decision and self-reliance. [passage omitted]

The chairman of the NSRCC again invited the rebel movement to sit for a third round of negotiations to arrive at a peace formula acceptable to all. He declared the revolution had resolved this year should be the year of peace in Sudan. He stressed the revolution's determination to render secure the citizen and national unity as the springboard for progress and prosperity. His excellency referred to the role of the Armed Forces and the other regular forces in promoting confidence. He said the strict economic restrictions would remain in force until the market stabilized. [passage omitted]

Lt Gen 'Umar voiced a new idea, which he called the year of Africa in Sudan. This should manifest itself in an African mobilization to assert the precedence of Africa in Sudan and the precedence of Sudan in Africa and Africa's (?linkage) with the Arab world [as heard].

The NSRCC stated the revolution this year would raise the slogans: Upright (?behavior); decency in action and speech; patience and forbearance; justice and equality among the people, in rights and duties. In adherence to these principles, he said, this gathering marks the beginning of the law on illegally acquired property. He said: I will begin with myself and the brothers in the Revolutionary Council and the Council of Ministers in signing declarations of (?liability). He went on to say that all leaders would be obliged to do this, and every manifestation of illegally or doubtfully acquired wealth would be followed up with full determination, to create a sound political and social atmosphere.

He called on those sons of the homeland who had emigrated to return and participate in the process of construction, reconstruction, and revival of the country. The gathering was attended by their excellencies the members of the NSRCC, the ministers, ambassadors accredited to Sudan, members of the diplomatic corps, the visiting Ugandan delegation, and a great crowd of citizens. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir Says No Return for Political Parties

EA3012163989 Khartoum SUNA in English 0905 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Dec [SUNA]—Any return to partisan rule will put the future of the Sudan at stake, Gen 'Umar al-Bashir, Command Council chairman, said. In a lengthy interview granted to SUNA, Gen al-Bashir said his government "would not gamble with the future of the country and its generations." He was responding to a question by SUNA on whether political parties banned by the government will be allowed to return. Gen al-Bashir told SUNA some of the partisan figures who participated in the various government-sponsored conferences had been chosen "on their individual quality." People now are convinced partisan practices were a waste of time, Gen al-Bashir said.

He asserted, "military men have seized power only when civilian partisan rules have failed in three successive periods."

Gen al-Bashir told SUNA on Saturday his government has no contact whatever with the dissolved political parties. However, Gen al-Bashir said contacts were being made with individuals, not with parties. "The revolution does not recognize parties," he reaffirmed.

Asked about the rebel SPLA's [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] demand for a broad-based national government, Gen al-Bashir has described the rebel movement's position as contradictory. He said the movement has been creating preconditions of excluding the Ummah, DUP [Democratic Unionist Party] and NIF [National Islamic Front] from such a government, while asking for a broad-based government in which political parties who campaign for democracy are to take part.

All political parties were banned on the eve of the bloodless takeover on 30 June.

Al-Bashir told SUNA according to results of the April 1986 elections showed the left-wing parties to be enjoying a support of less than two per cent. [sentence as received] Therefore, it cannot be said they represent a broad base, he said.

SPLA Cites Air Raid by Junta on Civilian Areas

EA2712163789 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] A report reaching Radio SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] from our correspondent in Lakes area said enemy planes have been carrying out random raids on civilian targets in Lakes and Bahr al-Ghazal administrative areas.

Correspondents say the areas of Akot, Aluak and the Toj [Dinka for swamp] of Atwot were bombarded by enemy planes on 8 and 9 December respectively. Four civilians were killed and 12 others were wounded during these air raids.

The enemy planes' bombardment of civilian targets has been going on since the beginning of this month. The bombardment by enemy planes at the town of Akot caused considerable loss of life and property. The junta's planes hit the grave of late Malwal Arop, the late father of Colonel Martin Malwal Arop, member of the junta's military council, and the whereabouts of the brothers of Col (Martin Machuei) are not known.

(Machuei) came out openly last time that their military planes were not bombarding civilian targets. How can he now deny the bombardment of his own home town, Akot, which resulted in the hitting of his own father's grave and leaving the fate of his own brothers unknown? Since Akot and other stations like Aluakluak and the Toj of Atwot are not SPLA camps, how could Col (Machuei) now convince the Sudanese people that the junta's planes were not bombing as he denied it earlier?

SPLA Denies UN Relief Group Smuggling Arms

EA2712171289 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] The official spokesman of the SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army] political/military high command today described Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah's announcement in a press conference [on 18 December] that U.N. Lifeline Sudan has been smuggling arms, ammunition and spare parts to the SPLA as false and unfounded propaganda by the junta aimed at defaming the U.N. and other humanitarian organizations. The spokesman said the junta accused the U.N. Lifeline Sudan simply to escape [as heard] their plans of using food as a weapon in the war and to cover their denial of relief assistance to the needy population by the junta's ban on relief operations.

The junta's accusation of U.N. Lifeline Sudan confirms the junta's atrocities against relief workers last week when their plane MSF [Medecines Sans Frontieres—French relief group] was downed by the junta's forces in Aweil. The spokesman called on donor states and agencies to take this false accusation seriously and condemn the junta's abuses of human rights in the Sudan.

Mubarak Leaves After Independence Day Festivities

EA3112203980 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Excerpts] This afternoon President 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] chairman, and Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, addressed at the People's Palace the official celebration marking the 34th anniversary of independence day. It was attended by NSRCC members, ministers, deputies of the first Parliament, President Mubarak's delegation, and a number of senior officials and ambassadors of countries accredited to Sudan.

Col Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, NSRCC member and chairman of the higher committee on independence day celebrations, during a speech said the struggle for independence since 1956 had not completed its course, and that the struggle for independence still was being waged, until a free, independent Sudan was built. This would continue to be the great struggle regarding the heroes of Sudan. His excellency saluted the vanguard of the nationalist movement.

Lt Gen 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir decorated his Brother, President Mubarak, with the chain of honor for Egypt's leading role in the Arab-Islamic world, confirming the most sublime relations of brotherhood and cooperation linking Sudan with Egypt, and in recognition of Egypt's generosity under Mubarak's leadership of Mubarak. [passage omitted]

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the fraternal Arab Republic of Egypt, and his delegation left Khartoum airport at 1600 this afternoon on the way to

Cairo, following a brief visit to the country, during which he met Lt Gen 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, NSRCC chairman, and joined the Sudanese people in celebrating the 34th independence day anniversary.

His excellency was seen off with his delegation at the airport by Lt-Gen 'Umar Hhasan Ahmad al-Bashir, members of the NSRCC, members of the Council of Ministers, his excellency the Egyptian ambassador to Khartoum and members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Sudan.

Junta Member Briefs News Media After Gulf Tour

EA2912175989 Khartoum SUNA in English 1022 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Dec (SUNA)—Col Salah al-Din Muhammad Ahmad Karrar, the RCC [Revolution Command Council] member and chairman of the economic affairs committee, on Thursday conducted a press conference on the outcome of his recent Arab tour. Col Karrar told the conference his tour mainly aimed at meeting and briefing the Sudanese expatriates there on policies recommended by the recent expatriates conference as [words indistinct]. He said his Gulf tour also included meetings with Arab commercial chambers, businessmen and investors, describing the tour as "successful, fruitful and promising."

He noted that in UAE [United Arab Emirates], he met with officials of the Abu Dhabi National Fund, who did not demand early repayment of the Fund's debts to the Sudan, [as received] but demanded repaying the interest rates of the debts that amount to 98,000,000 (?pounds sterling) in local currency.

He indicated some UAE businessmen have expressed the desire to shift part of their cement, plastic and aluminum factories from the UAE to the Sudan. He said he conferred with some businessmen there on their possibile participation in the transport sector, along with Sudanair and Sudan Shipping Lines.

Col Karrar told the press conference a preliminary agreement was made with UAE government officials for conducting a Sudanese production fair in the UAE and a fair exhibiting UAE production in the Sudan.

Col Karrar told the press conference he had conducted talks with Gulf officials and businessmen concerning their investment in Sudan, confirming that the Arab funds were satisfied with Sudan's situation and started to release their frozen aid to the country.

He emphasized he noticed a lack of necessary information in the Gulf regarding spheres of investment in the Sudan. Col Karrar has reaffirmed that an investment conference scheduled (?for) February would provide the required investment map and study.

Col Karrar went on to confirm that the new investment act would encourage Arab and international investors to invest their money in the Sudan.

Canadian Firm To Conduct Mineral Exploration

EA2612160189 Khartoum SUNA in English 1014 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Dec (SUNA)—The Canadian Armino Company is due to commence a field exploration activity for minerals in Hufrat Ennahas, southwestern Sudan, in the beginning of the new year, said an official at the Public Corporation of Geological Research. He said the corporation had been receiving various applications by international and Arab companies for investment in the sphere of minerals exploration.

Speaking on the role of the private sector in the minerals exploration in Sudan, the source noted that it obtains over 95 percent of the licences that were issued for this purpose.

Further Reportage on Weizman Dismissal

Rabin in 'Serious Dilemma'

TA3112194689 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Report by political correspondent Yig'al Goren]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Yitzhaq Rabin is in a serious dilemma following the Weizman dismissal. He told us: If this crisis develops, it will end the peace process. I cannot see how it is possible to accept the ouster of Weizman from the Cabinet. It is almost impossible, says Rabin, to forsake Weizman and go on—regardless of what 'Ezer Weizman may or may not have done. [passage omitted]

Rabin on Coalition Crisis, PLO

TA0101074590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Shalom Qital and Shlomo Raz—live]

[Qital] Good morning, Defense Minister Rabin.

[Rabin] Good morning.

[Qital] What is going to happen?

[Rabin] First, several things must be made clear. The initiative to take a move that could lead to the collapse of the government was the Likud's, the prime minister's. It was not the Labor Party which initiated a move that could break up the government. This is due to the fact that the Alignment Cabinet members see the continuation of the existence of the national unity government as currently needed in view of the chances of attaining peace based on the Cabinet resolution and in view of the expected immigration wave and our security problems.

The second thing: The Alignment ministers adhere to government guidelines and to the Cabinet resolution on the peace initiative. Both include a clear principle: No negotiations with the PLO. Weizman's arguments alleging that the government is negotiating with the PLO are not true. We are holding contacts with the United States, Egypt, and Palestinian residents of the territories. With whom they talk is their business. That is why there should be no argument whether, in principle, we should or should not talk to the PLO.

The third point: The prime minister must have had some reason to believe the possibility that Minister Weizman sent an indirect message to a PLO element. As far as I know, Weizman did this with the intention of making Baker's five points be accepted. I do not know anything concerning a contradiction of Israeli Government policy.

The fourth point: I believe that this is not an issue over which it is worth breaking up the national unity government. It follows from this that a way must be found to keep the government intact, with Minister Weizman in it.

[Raz] Mr Rabin, what way? You did not slam the door yesterday, but on the other hand you are demanding that Weizman stay in the government.

[Rabin] This is true.

[Qital] What is the way than? What could the formula be?

[Rabin] I would not like to go into specifics at this time. One thing should be clear, however: If the national unity government does break up, this will not be the Alignment's initiative. It will not be because of an argument on principles such as negotiations with the PLO. The Labor Party position, and the Alignment ministers' position in Cabinet, is against negotiations with the PLO. All that has been done so far cannot be considered negotiations. We must remain on this track. The way I see it, even if now and then it is possible to say that this or another person did this or the other thing, it is still far from constituting a cause to break up the government today.

[Qital] Mr Rabin, I have read somewhere a theoretical possibility which I do not know whether you have discussed: Weizman in the Cabinet, not in the Inner Cabinet. Is that acceptable to you?

[Rabin] I do not want to go into details. There are precedents for solutions, and one should be found, because it is hard to envision any other way to avoid the crisis.

[Raz] Mr Rabin, the vice prime minister knew already on Thursday [28 December] of the prime minister's intention and kept silent. Is that acceptable to you?

[Rabin] It is absolutely acceptable. I also knew, and I do not want to say at which moment I knew. In any case, I did not believe that the vice prime minister or myself should talk to Weizman. I believed that this is the duty of the prime minister. If the prime minister has a complaint to make against a minister—and, according to him, he had a severe charge—I believe that he had to summon that minister, and I have said so before.

[Qital] I assume that you knew he was not going to summon him, only to fire him.

[Rabin] All I can say is that even Sunday morning, when I and Mr Peres met with the prime minister, I could not have known for certain what his move would be.

[Raz] Are the moves to form a narrow-based government acceptable to you?

[Rabin] I think that, at this stage, a solution must be sought. This solution must ensure the continued existence of the unity government. I believe that the government policy, even if it seems slow, should be allowed to continue. To make this happen, a solution must be found such that Weizman remains in the Cabinet.

[Qital] If Weizman is not in the Cabinet, is the Alignment outside too?

[Rabin] It is hard for me to see a way for the Alignment to stay in the Cabinet.

[Qital] Thank you, Mr Defense Minister.

Weizman Advised PLO on Baker Plan

TA0101130690 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Report by Knesset correspondent Dov Gilhar]

[Text] The Alignment faction, convened at this hour with Ministers Peres and Rabin, was briefed by Minister Weizman on the details of the alleged contacts he held with the PLO. I did not meet with PLO members, Weizman declared, but disclosed: During the negotiations on Baker's five-point plan, I received a telephone call from PLO elements in Tunisia in my residence in Qesariah. Weizman said that he spoke on the phone with an element whose identity he refused to disclose and, following this conversation, he advised his counterpart from Tunisia that the PLO should accept the five-point plan and add to it constraints and assumptions in a way similar to the way Israel did.

As for his links with Dr Ahmad al-Tibi, Weizman told his faction members that each of al-Tibi's trips to Arab countries was coordinated with the Shin Bet. Weizman said that he had helped al-Tibi obtain a permit to leave for Jordan, where he is now, on a family matter.

Shim'on Peres presented his faction members his letter to Yitzhaq Shamir in which he demanded that the prime minister retract his decision.

Before entering the meeting, Peres was asked whether he sees a chance of a breakthrough in the crisis at this afternoon hour. Peres replied: I see no change in the situation.

It seems that the Alignment faction will not hold a vote on any resolution, but rather will endorse the Alignment ministers' resolution from last night calling on the prime minister to take back his letter of dismissal to Weizman.

'Secret' Material on Weizman Cited

TA0201053390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir will apparently invite Science Minister 'Ezer Weizman to a private meeting this morning to make clear the type of material that has been accumulated against him on PLO contacts. Likud sources say they then hope Weizman will then hand in his resignation. Shamir may also invite several Labor Party members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee to see the material.

Voice of Israel reporter Ze'ev Kohen says that among other things, the material classified as secret shows that Weizman advised PLO officials to be patient and adopt a step-by-step approach. Weizman was also quoted as saying: If you act correctly, you will also get Jerusalem. According to our reporter, Weizman also advised the PLO to accept the Baker plan, but on condition that the PLO be a party to the negotiations and appoint the Palestinian delegates. Weizman was also quoted as telling the PLO the U.S. should commit itself to you that a Palestinian state will be established at the end of the process.

Likud sources also said last night that the material not only concerned Weizman but another senior member of the Labor Party. Defense Minister Rabin saw all the material yesterday and the Likud sources believe that is why he criticized Weizman.

The prime minister's dismissal of the science minister goes into force at 1330 this afternoon.

Rabin: Shamir 'Caved In'

TA0201131990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports from the Alignment ministers' meeting that Minister Rabin said that Prime Minister Shamir had caved in far more than Minister Weizman. Rabin claims that Shamir must now take back everything he said on television.

Shamir: Action 'Grave Warning'

TA0201163790 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] The coalition crisis has ended. The government remains in one piece. Minister 'Ezer Weizmann will pay a partial price—he will be removed from the Inner Cabinet for 18 months, but will remain a Cabinet member. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's remarks in the wake of the agreed-upon compromise:

[Begin Shamir recording] We all know about the compromise solution. It enables the continued existence of the national unity government, serves the national interests of the State of Israel, and serves as a grave warning to all those who dare to break our laws and make contacts with our arch foes. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 1 January in a similar report adds that "During their noon meeting, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir demanded that Minister 'Ezer Weizman not hold political talks in Moscow when he flies there tomorrow. Weizman told this to the Alignment ministers' meeting."]

Police Complaints Filed

TA0201182190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] Likud Knesset Member [MK] Tzahi Hanegbi has filed an official complaint with the police against Minister 'Ezer Weizman and Shim'on Peres. He claims that their contacts with PLO representatives constitute a violation of the Antiterror Act.

Regarding Minister Weizman, Hanegbi contends that last June he held a meeting at the Geneva Hilton Hotel with PLO representative Nabil al-Ramlawi and that this was known but unauthorized. That meeting, claims Hanegbi, was political in nature, and Weizman used the opportunity to deliver messages to the PLO leader. Furthermore, he never reported on these meetings either to the prime minister or to the Shin Bet.

MK Hanegbi also maintains that in the past few months Weizman transmitted additional messages to 'Arafat through two emissaries: Dr Ahmad al-Tibi, and [former Foreign Ministry Director General] Avraham Tamir.

Regarding Minister Shim'on Peres, MK Hanegbi claims that he was updated only on the contacts with the PLO representatives and, as per Weizman's testimony, relayed a political message to the PLO leadership that it should accept the Baker plan and append to its consent certain conditions.

According to Tzahi Hanegbi, the law stipulates that the police are under obligation to launch an investigation and present their findings before the State Attorney's Office, even though the political crisis over this matter has ended.

Avi Farhan, a resident of the Gaza District and a member of Tehiya, also filed a complaint with the Ashqelon police against Minister 'Ezer Weizman as well as Dr Ahmad al-Tibi and Avraham Tamir, on suspicion that the three had broken the act banning meetings with the PLO. This was reported by our correspondent Moti Amir.

Weizman To Continue Efforts

TA0201204890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] Minister 'Ezer Weizman said he will continue to fight for negotiations with the PLO and that he views the ending of the affair over his contacts with representatives of that organization as a compromise which is 80 percent in his favor. He said the Likud exploited the most sensitive information for its political needs, but in the final analysis realized the danger, backed off, and the affair ended with the return of the letter firing him from the Cabinet.

[Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 2 January carries an interview with Minister Weizman in which he says: "I did not change my view that we must negotiate with the PLO. I did not change my mind. I might change my tactics, but I did not change my mind." Asked whether he would meet with PLO officials during his Moscow visit this week, Minister Weizman replies: "No." Asked if he was supposed to have met with them, Weizman replies: "No."]

Minister Yitzhaq Rabin adopted a position in support of the prime minister and said Shamir's decision to fire Minister Weizman was not a personal matter. He said Minister Weizman accepted what the prime minister told him: That each minister must act according to the government's basic guidelines. According to Minister Rabin, most of the public is satisfied with the way the affair ended and the fact that the unity government was not disbanded. It is not the right time to disband the unity government, he said, and pointed out that it would have ended any chances for making progress in the peace process for at least 1 year.

Justice Minister Dan Meridor said that Minister 'Ezer Weizman's actions were extremely serious, and the attorney general will decide whether charges should be brought against him. He said the public affair has ended, but that the legal side has just begun. He stressed that in Israel all are equal before the law.

Knesset Member Mikha Harish, the Labor Party secretary general, said the Weizman affair has ended, but the Shamir affair has just begun. He told our correspondent Shlomo Raz that the prime minister tried to revert to the norms of summary trials, an issue which must continue to be debated.

Shomron Warns Against Defense Budget Cuts

TA0201173590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Report by Knesset correspondent Dov Gilhar]

[Excerpt] Chief of Staff Dan Shomron warned today against defense budget cuts. He was reporting to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. He said that although budget cuts are possible, in times of war it will demand a higher price in human lives.

Knesset Member [MK] Refa'el Eytan asked Shomron how many lives were involved, but the chief of staff avoided going into any detail for fear that this figure might be leaked. I will not mention numbers because this is ultimately published, but that number is high, he said.

Shevah Weiss asked: Is the option for war with Syria realistic? We certainly take such a belligerent option into consideration, said the chief of staff. Syria has 400,000 troops, and it is continuing to conduct exercises and procure modern equipment. Most of its soldiers are salaried career men, and 30 percent of Syria's gross national product is channeled toward defense expenses, reported the chief of staff.

Regarding the cost of the intifadah, the chief of staff provided the following statistics: During the Lebanon war, the IDF [Israel Defense Force] required 16 million reserve duty days, while since the beginning of the intifadah, 10 million such days have been used. [passage omitted]

Shots Fired From Jordan at Patrol; No Casualties

TA0101182790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] Shots were fired at an IDF [Israel Defense Force] patrol near Hammat Gader early this morning. The shots were fired from across the Jordanian border. There were no casualties, and no damage was caused.

Military sources reported that the IDF soldiers returned fire. Jordanian troops were observed to be searching the area from their side of the border.

This was reported by our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe.

Hamas Leader Charged With Complicity in Murder

TA0301131190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] The reading of the charge sheet against Shaykh Yasin, the leader of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the Gaza Strip, has just been concluded in the Gaza military court. His attorney admitted that the shaykh had established the organization out of an Islamic sense of obligation to defy the Israeli occupation. Shaykh Yasin has been charged with numerous serious offenses, including complicity in the murder of residents suspected of collaborating with Israel and the recruitment of the terror squad that kidnapped and murdered the soldiers Sasportas and Sa'adon.

A representative of the International Red Cross is present at the trial, as well as family members of the murdered soldiers.

Injuries, Detentions in Jerusalem Demonstration

TA3012183189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Thousands of Israelis and Palestinians joined hands around the walls of Jerusalem's Old City today, but their demonstration for peace was marred by clashes sparked when police dispersed Arabs shouting nationalist slogans near the Damascus Gate. Police used tear gas, rubber bullets, and water cannons in three clashes at the Damascus and Nabulus [as heard] Gates. Dozens of people were detained and above 50 injured.

Present at the event were at least 15,000 demonstrators, 2,000 security personnel, and a large contingent of international and local media members. [passage omitted]

Youth Killed in Al-Ram Clash; Gaza Curfew Lifted

TA0201071090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] A Palestinian youth was shot and killed in a clash in the village of al-Ram north of Jerusalem last night. He was identified as 17-year-old 'Ali Badr al-Khatib. Arab sources say another six youths were injured.

Military sources say an Army unit spotted a procession of some 50 masked Palestinians. The soldiers first fired plastic bullets and warning shots into the air. Two of the masked demonstrators were caught, and the IDF [Israel Defense Force] is now investigating the incident.

The curfew imposed on the Gaza Strip yesterday on the anniversary of the Fatah organization was lifted this morning.

Twenty-one Arabs were killed last month in clashes with soldiers in the territories. This was up on the 13 Palestinian deaths reported in November. The information was provided by the human rights group Betzelem.

Amnesty Charges 'Massive' Rights Violations

AU0101095890 Paris AFP in English 0931 GMT 01 Jan 90

[Text] London, Jan 3 (AFP)—Amnesty International said Wednesday it suspected the Israeli government of "actively encouraging the shooting of Palestinian civilians" by its soldiers to contain the popular uprising in the occupied territories, known as the intifada.

The international human rights organization said human rights violations in the territories were "serious and massive." It called for a review of Israeli military guidelines over the use of firearms, speeding up of public inquiries of alleged abuses and punishing those found guilty.

It denounced existing military guidelines which permitted Israeli soldiers to use live ammunition, including regular and plastic bullets, "to justify" killing unarmed Palestinians, and the half-hearted passivity of official investigators. "All these factors together seem to exceed simple tolerance of serious abuses to the point of encouraging them," the report said.

More than 560 Palestinians have been killed by bullets in the occupied territories since the intifida began two years ago, 130 of whom were aged 16 or younger, said Amnesty. It accused the Israeli government of having deliberately killed Palestinian activists suspected of leading the intifada, certain of whom were unarmed at the time of their arrests.

It said that Israeli soldiers whose lives were not immediately threatened had opened fire on Palestinians, notably stone-throwing demonstrators who were often children, in an "alarming number of cases." The report attributed 100 Palestinian deaths to the use of tear gas with "excessive and indiscriminate force" and to the systematically bad treatment of prisoners.

Most investigations of these abuses, which depend on the testimony of soldiers and policemen, drag on and their conclusions sometimes remain secret, Amnesty said. It noted that only four soldiers had been handed down prison terms in the past two years.

Prime Minister Replies to Deputies' Remarks

JN0101193690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1610 GMT 1 Jan 90

["Text" of response by Prime Minister Mudar Badran to remarks by deputies during debate on government policy statement in Amman on 1 January, shortly before obtaining vote of confidence—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed deputies: My fellow cabinet ministers and I have been listening intently to your remarks and comments on the question of public liberties. It is heartwarming this fundamental issue has been a rallying point for your esteemed House.

The government is committed to human rights in the interest of promoting freedom, competence, and justice. Whoever holds true to this natural right will have spared himself the search for a ceiling over freedom. This ceiling, in societies that place human rights at a premium, is determined by the constitution that regulates these liberties. Accordingly, I stress that the government, which is committed fully to honoring the letter and spirit of the constitution's articles, is determined to abrogate martial law and its vestiges in 4 to 6 months. A ministerial committee has been set up to pursue relevant measures. During the coming weeks, the government plans to announce new measures that will reinvest the regular judiciary with the right to hear cases now being tried by martial courts of law.

The martial law issue now is a closed case for us. I trust your esteemed chamber will view it in this light. I look forward to your cooperation on an issue closely related to the abrogation of martial law—full support for the judiciary to help it discharge responsibilities flowing from the abolishment of martial law. I would like to declare that the government will be prepared to cooperate toward amending legislatation that would help the judiciary better fulfill its mission. The government furthermore intends to support the judiciary's drive to recruit more distinguished staff and prepare training programs for enhancing the efficiency of personnel employed by this vital branch of government.

Regarding the defense law, I would like to assert that the government is committed to a revision of all the special laws, particularly the defense law, and that it will work toward their abrogation and amendment in keeping with the democratic line which all of us are seeking to consolidate. The government also contemplates abrogation of the law combating communism and reconsidering the election law and the law on political parties, as well as the publications law.

Brothers: The government's line on this issue was inspired by directives of His Majesty King Husayn when he tasked me with this responsibility.

Esteemed deputies: The government has taken many measures to confirm its commitment to the constitutional rights of the people. I would like to reiterate that the right of the public to air its views is assured, as are rights to free movement, travel, work, organization, and access to all personal documents. Living in a democratic society requires citizens abide by the law, and that all of us cooperate in building the society in which the rights of every citizen are assured without infringing on the rights or hurting the feelings of others.

The government holds that this comprehensive framework to which it has committed answers all remarks and queries of the deputies regarding the reinstatement of people dismissed from their jobs, prior clearance for employment, and other constraints limiting the freedom of work, travel, and movement. For the government, these issues now are a closed affair and have been settled by this comprehensive framework of the question of liberties. I am delighted to inform you the government welcomes the reinstatment of those fired from university and government posts on security grounds and the revision of the cases of those whose designations for appointment were refused on the same grounds. The government would like to reiterate its concern to see security services refrain from interfering in appointments to state posts and candidates for scholarships, as well as in the issuance of professional licences and those for charities, clubs, professional unions, and private institutions.

Regarding remarks by the deputies about political prisoners, the government is studying this issue and will take necessary measures toward issuing a pardon for those sentenced on security grounds.

Esteemed deputies, led by His Majesty King Husayn, Jordan has had a visible profile that is out of proportion to its size and resources. This distinctive standing fortunately has reflected on Jordan's relations with all countries, especially the Arab states and the nonaligned nations. Jordan plays a salient role in all forums joining these nations.

As the government voices its full commitment to supporting the just struggle of the Palestinian Arab people, to the principle of not conceding a single inch of Palestine's pure soil, and backing the blessed intifadah of the Palestinian people, it holds that people's struggle is an indivisible whole, and our commitment to backing it is dictated by close bonds of history and heritage.

Proceeding from this premise, Jordan supports world liberation movements, and backs every people aspiring to attain independence from colonialism on their national soil. Jordan also will continue to act in all spheres to defend Arab rights in Palestine, Lebanon's unity and territorial integrity, work toward attaining lasting peace between the Muslim neighbors of Iraq and Iran, and consolidating an influential Arab and Islamic presence in the world. Jordan hence stands for containing all problems that sap the energies of the Arab and Muslim peoples. Jordan accordingly views the struggle of the Afghan people as one link in a chain. During the years, His Majesty King Husayn has made constant contacts with all parties to the Afghan issue to help terminate the conflict and promote the freedom and unity of the Afghan people and their yearnings to build the society they have sought from their longstanding struggle.

Esteemed deputies, the government sees a close relationship among the mission of education, the media, and the role of education in building society. It also realizes coordination among these sectors allows them to assume a joint responsibility for educating future generations. Proceeding from this principle, the government believes the media's mission will help the citizen and his family by providing them with new, useful news and programs honestly, objectively, and responsibly, to add to their knowledge, develop their national sense, broaden their pan-Arab horizons, and strengthen their Islamic ties. The media also will be far from superficiality and anything else that may conflict with our Arab and Islamic values, ethics, and traditions.

The government's policy of promoting freedom of the press has yielded its fruits. Our newspapers have begun expressing our people's aspirations, concerns, and ambitions through the pens of our writers and scholars. The editor in chief of each newspaper is assuming full responsibility for what is published, without any restriction, except what usually is imposed by the requirements of journalism and the honor of belonging to it. The government also began developing the official media by expanding news coverage to encompass all of society's affairs without accumulating news or overlooking the main issues. The JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, television, and radio station will be national corporations dealing with activities and opinions at the level of the entire homeland.

The government will try to promote official and popular educational action to enable it to rise to the level of the new stage, in which democracy will prevail in all sectors of the society, and to base this action on the pillars of freedom, dialogue, and tolerance in a manner that will not conflict with the nation's belief, message, and culture. Proceeding from the government's recognition that teaching is a profession, as well as a calling, the government will support the various aspects of this profession. It also will look into ways to develop and organize it to serve its goals and aspirations. It also is conducting a serious study to work out the best way to establish a professional organization through dialogue for the teachers in response to aspirations of the teaching family.

The government concentrates on teaching the Islamic sciences, and it will respond to the royal desire to establish a specialized Islamic academy to serve all areas of Jordan and to open its doors to citizens from the Arab and Islamic worlds, in addition to our commitment in our policy statement to establishing the propagation college. Regarding the establishment of a college for Islamic law sciences at al-Yarmuk University, I can say the issue is being discussed by the university council, which has formed a committee to conduct a detailed study of how this great project will be implemented. The decision will be made by the university's council of trustees to be set up as part of our commitment in our policy statement to achieving the university's independence.

Esteemed deputies, I would like to say that, praise be to God, we are a country that takes pride in its affiliation with Islam as a religion, civilization, and history, and that its throne is occupied by a king whose ancestry dates back to the great Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him. Our blessed country witnessed the major battles of Islam in Mu'tah and al-Yarmuk. Its pure earth embraced the remains of several strugglers, the companions of God's prophet—may God's peace and blessings be upon him—who were martyred in defense of Islam. Therefore, the connection between Jordan—leadership, people, and land—and Islam has deep historical roots. Islam, with its tolerant humanitarian principles, was and continues to be a source of pride to this country and its people and a source of inspiration guiding us in all areas of life. We do not think a Muslim who believes in God does not want to see God's book, which came as an act of mercy for people and, as the sunnah of the Great Prophet, directs the Muslims' lives toward their welfare and the welfare of all mankind in all the world. It might be useful to say here that many of our habits, traditions, and daily practices in this country stem from Islam and its eternal heritage. Even much of our legislation is derived from the Islamic shari'a. Jordan is one of the few Arab countries which basically depends on the Islamic shari'a in drafting their laws. Even the provisions of the Islamic shari'a never have ceased to be implemented in this country, particularly those related to dealings among people; that is, the provisions of civic law. We proceeded from implementation of the provisions of the Juristic Provisions Magazine, which were drafted in 1295 Hegira [1917] based on Islamic jurisprudence, basically the Hanafi jurisprudence. They were drafted by elite Muslim scholars at that time, and they continued to be the applicable civic law in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan until the issuance of the new civic law, whose provisions were derived from the Islamic shari'a and drafted by a group of Muslim jurisprudents and scholars. This law now governs our civil life and dealings. Moreover, it is well known the Muslims' personal status in the kingdom is governed precisely and tightly by the Islamic shari'a. Even part of this shari'a, such as the inheritance provisions, also is applied to non-Muslims. Proceeding from our heritage and distinguished position regarding this, the government is heading toward applying the Islamic shari'a by reconciling laws and the noble shari'a provisions [applause] in a manner serving the movement of progress in our country, safeguarding our cultural accomplishments, and preserving the people's rights and interests. All this will be done through dialogue and cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities in the democratic method chosen by his majesty the leader, and which was accepted by our people as a program governing our life in this country, thus benefiting from similar experiences in Arab and Islamic countries. We thus will have made large strides along the path drawn by His Majesty King Husayn on moving toward Islam.

In regard to the banking profession in light of Islamic principles, Jordan has been at the head of the Islamic countries, which have shown intense interest in this experience. Jordan has made every effort to help implement this experience. Regarding this, the first legislation in the Islamic world was enacted in Jordan in 1978. Under this legislation, the first Islamic bank was established. A number of financial houses then were established on Islamic bases and principles. The Central Bank, in cooperation with its counterparts in the Arab and Islamic world, also is trying to provide these Islamic banking establishments with new policies in line with the Islamic concept, and also to establish ties between these banks and the central banks, in harmony with the nature of their work on an Islamic basis, which differs from what is being applied to the banking system. The Central Bank also is encouraging studies and research aimed at supporting these establishments' operations and drawing up their work concepts concepts in harmony with the Islamic law.

Esteemed deputies, the government will work to reconsider its policy in housing and agricultural loans, and will accept only the cost and not the interest from borrowers. [Applause] It will accept from borrowers the cost paid by the government in establishing these projects and providing services for them, taking into account that these projects are directed toward low-income people and that the cost to be paid by the borrowers should be in proportion to their capabilities. In addition, the government currently is studying possibly applying a system to secure agricultural crops that will provide farmers with a guarantee against natural disasters and will make it easy for them to meet their obligations.

Regarding unemployment, the government knows this is one of the most important challenges that will face the country during the next decade. It also knows the extent of the complications of this phenomenon and the circumstances that led to it. The drop in investment rates in the country, the drop in demand for Jordanian workers by Gulf countries, and the growth rate of the population represent coherent factors that reflect negatively on the various social dimensions of this problem. Proceeding from our understanding of this problem's nature, limiting this phenomenon and dealing with its results are a top priority in the government's economic policy. The government therefore will seek the following:

1. Preserving a reasonable portion of development expenditure within the state's general expenditure to provide more job opportunities for citizens and to increase production and income.

2. The cornerstone in the government's economic policy to deal with this problem is to create more job opportunities by increasing investment in the country to exploit capabilities and establish and expand agricultural, industrial, and touristic projects that can absorb and provide more jobs.

3. The government will pay special attention to supporting the small projects that can provide new jobs. This support for small projects will come through the establishment of the development and labor fund, which will provide an easy finance and the technical assistance required to establish and perpetuate these projects. The fund also will support the voluntary social work establishments and coordinate their activities to become a tool capable of establishing small projects that provide jobs for local workers.

4. Organizing the labor market in the kingdom will be the government's primary concern so labor and employment offices will play a positive and effective role in identifying existing labor opportunities and creating new opportunities for the Jordanian labor force. The government also will activate the role of vocational education and the role played by the vocational training institutions in preparing technical cadres and undertaking necessary rehabilitation so graduates will match the needs of the labor market. The government also will study possibily unifying the funds concerned in offering assistance and special aid to handle the pockets of poverty—I agree with the brothers who said there no longer are such pockets, but pockets of richness—such as the national aid fund and the zakat fund. The government also will study possibily setting up a central fund that will be able to develop its work and increase its effectiveness in combating poverty.

As for the subject of combating price hikes and providing basic commodities at suitable prices, the government will fight greed and price tampering, and will curb price hikes, although the 1989 developments were accompanied by a notable hike in prices resulting from the sharp decline in the price of the dinar and the rise in the prices of goods worldwide, in addition to some people's exploitation of prevailing circumstances at that time. The government in 1990 will continue subsidizing basic foods. The sum of 60 million dinars has been earmarked for this purpose in the general budget law, in additon to exempting sugar from customs duties, which are estimated at 8 million dinars. According to world prices, sugar should be sold here for 70 piasters [700 fils], free of profit. This is the price of a kilogram of sugar—70 piasters. The same applies to rice. Every kilogram of sugar is subsidized by 56 piasters [560 fils] by the treasury. Therefore, the smuggling of every kilogram of sugar costs the Jordanian people 56 piasters. The government also will continue supporting the military and civil consumer corporations, which serve about 350,000 employees, military, retired, and their families. The government will fix prices and profit margins for basic stuffs as necessary according to the supply law approved by the previous government, while maintaining sufficient incentives for investment and production in the private sector.

It should be recalled here that 1990 will show price stability compared with 1989 once the projected stablity in the dinar's exchange rate is taken into consideration. Praise be to God.

The government is committed fully to the policy of austerity in the state departments, and this clearly will be reflected in the government's various activities. This orientation is in complete harmony with the course of national economy reform. In its session a week ago, the Council of Ministers decided not to import any automobiles for the government during the next 2 years. The luxury cars which you see, and which were mentioned by some brothers, were received during the Arab summit. They were not bought for luxury—and we always will speak the truth, God willing. [applause] They were gifts from many sisterly Arab states, such as Morocco, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia, as a contribution to the Arab summit of accord and reconciliation in Jordan.

Together with your esteemed House, the government will work diligently to return money kept abroad through various means—and, of course, I am not talking about stolen money. [laughter] We will improve the domestic investment climate so citizens can bring their money back and invest here at home. We will create increasing confidence in the national economy. The government also will act to reinforce regulations and restrictions contained in the valid laws on foreign investment by Jordanians residing in the country.

The government will arrange for holding municipal elections as soon as possible. It will issue a law for the municipality of Greater Amman, aiming to conduct elections for this municipality as soon as the transitional period defined by the valid law on municipalities expires.

Esteemed deputies, some deputies have referred to the national program of economic rectification and to the cooperation with international institutions to implement this program. To me it does not seem appropriate to criticize any cooperation with international institutions without considering the essence and circumstances of this cooperation. As you know, the economic crisis that hit the country during the past years and exploded in 1988 has led to major economic disturbances: Retreat in growth, economic recession, and a heightening of unemployment and poverty problems. An increase in the state's general budget also was a feature of this crisis, and this was a result of mounting government spending financed by growing internal and external borrowing. Accumulating a balance of payments deficit was another feature of the crisis. This led to depletion of foreign currency reserves, accumulation of foreign debts, instability in the price of the dinar, and discontinuation of foreign debt servicing.

These disturbances require treatment that allows structural reforms in the Jordanian economy to create a balance between public and private consumption and local resources, between the state's spending and local revenues and the kingdom's foreign payments and receivables. The economic rectification program aims to treat these disturbances by curbing public and private consumption, increasing savings, encouraging productive investment and giving the private sector special priority enabling the national economy to grow at an acceptable pace, create new jobs, and increase production and exports.

It is clear the program requires adoption of a belt-tightening policy on all levels and efforts to protect low-income people. Successful implementation of this program guarantees treating the economic crisis and resuming growth. The gaps that led to the economic disturbances otherwise only will grow wider, and the national economy will be subject to major setbacks. Without rectification policies, this economy cannot resume healthy growth.

Implementation of this program is a national effort required to confront and resolve the crisis. Making this effort will allow us to receive support and assistance from fraternal Arab countries and the world community. Assistance the world provides today to nations is proportional to the local efforts these nations make to resolve their crises. If implementation of the program ceases, expected Arab and international assistance to Jordan markedly will decrease, accompanied by further hardship and difficulties. We must, however, make it clear the government, while implementing this program, will work diligently to lessen its effects on impoverished and low-income people.

The government also will fully ensure implementation of its past instructions: Refrain from licensing the sale of alcohol by Muslims and refrain from providing alcohol in all public establishments and official invitations.

Esteemed deputies, many honorable deputies have submitted remarks and proposals on some of the government's institutions, projects, and services. The government promises your esteemed House it will reconsider the structure of governmental institutions following an assessment of their work and accomplishments, such as the Housing Corporation, the Urban Development Corporation, the National Medical Institution, the Jordan Valley Authority, and the Following Up and Inspection Department. We also will reconsider the state organization's policies and administrative procedures—for example, drilling artesian wells, distribution of agricultural and housing units, pumping al-Hidan [Valley] water, the price of irrigation water, the status of sewage treatment plants, the agricultural pattern, and livestock support.

As stated in its program, the government plans to maintain the level of basic services despite their high cost. You will be informed of its plan to develop and expand these services, especially in health, educational, and social fields, when the draft resolution for the state budget for next year is presented to your esteemed

House. The relevant ministers, together with your relevant House committees, will study all your proposals to achieve joint resolutions on them.

Regarding indebtedness, esteemed deputies, the government program has mentioned the comprehensive view on indebtedness and its causes. The government has supported your esteemed House's view that a comprehensive investigation must be made, and the matter must be referred to the Finance Committee. This is what you have decided, esteemed deputies, and that is why the policy statement did not give details on this matter according to the wishes and resolution of the esteemed House. The government will present to that committee a comprehensive, detailed report on indebtedness; its volume, sources, the way it was spent, and anything else you demand.

The growth in the volume of indebtedness began in 1975. After the debt figures given by Honorable Deputy Dhuqan al-Hindawi were examined, it appeared he deliberately mixed the three standards used for measuring indebtedness. The first of these standards is the balance of contracted debts, which by the end of 1988 reached $11,750 million. The second standard is the balance of unpaid debts, which at the end of 1988 reached $8.3 billion. The third standard is the balance of unpaid debts after subtracting the sums that have not been withdrawn, and this stands at $1.8 billion. Therefore, by the end of 1988, debts amounted to $6.5 billion, and I only am talking of external debts.

This shows the volume of external debt mentioned by the honorable deputy—$9.76 billion—is not based on any of the three standards used in calculating debts.

The first standard used in calculating indebtedness—that is, the sum of contracted debts—is the correct standard that must be used to determine who is responsible. When a debt agreement is signed, there will be an obligation, and this becomes a burden on the homeland. According to this standard, the growth of indebtedness and the responsibilities of the consecutive governments for this debt is as follows:

Before 1977, the contracted sum is $1,119 million, or 9.5 percent of total debts.

From 1977 to 1979: The contracted sum is 937 million, 8 percent of total debts.

Let me explain this again: Before 1977—or let me say, from the establishment of the Kingdom of Jordan to 1977, the sum is $1,119 million, or 9.5 percent of total debts. From 1977 to 1979, the sum is 937 million, or 8 percent of total debts.

In 1980, the sum was $982 million, or 8.4 percent of total debts.

From 1981 to 1983, $1.54 billion, or 13 percent. In 1984, $1.43 billion, or 8.9 percent. But from 1985 to 1988, $6.14 billion, or 52.2 percent. [applause] I brought this report because of the debate that took place in your esteemed House on the policy statement. I shall abide by the esteemed House's request that this report be submitted to the financial committee. This report, with all details, will be submitted to the financial committee. Since it was accused the debts were caused by accumulations during my two terms as prime minister, I can say the volume of debt during my first term was $937 million, which made up 8 percent of the total debt. During the second term, it reached $1.54 billion, which constituted 13 percent of the total debt. Thus, overall loans during my 7 and 1/2-year term reached $2.47 billion, which made up 21 percent of the total foreign debt. The domestic debt also will be discussed. From 1985 to 1988, the debt reached $6.14 billion. We mentioned at the National Consultative Council we had approached the red line. Every member of that Council remembers that. Therefore, we reduced the debt. When we received Arab aid for armaments, we paid in cash. It was not trade debts, or any other debts. It was paid in cash. Therefore, when the list is submitted to the financial committee, it will see everything was paid in cash.

Once again, the figures mentioned by his excellency the deputy prime minister, who occupied this post during that period, and his distribution of the debts on the successive governments are baseless, and do not apply to reality. He said debts between 1985 to 1988 were $4.4 billion, while they reached $6.1 billion. He also said the debts during my terms reached $3.7 billion, while they actually reached only $2.5 billion. Why do they tamper with figures? Why do they not wait until your esteemed House's investigation? Why do they insist the policy statement restricts the debt to the last 5 years, while the policy statement indicates expansion of the debt during that period? In the policy statement, we mentioned an expansion of debt during that period. This is confirmed by the previous figures.

Regarding the use of debts, it was as follows: Treasury loans to finance the deficit—from the establishment of the state until the end of 1985—reached 192.3 million dinars. The treasury loans aimed at covering the deficit in the budget. All the debts were 192 million dinars. From 1985 to 1988, it reached 777.7 million dinars.

If I make any mistake in any figure, I hope his excellency the finance minister, or the Central Bank governor, will correct me. Therefore, since the establishment of the state—allow me to continue—the allocation of debts has been as follows: First, treasury loans to finance the deficit were $192.3 million. From 1985 until 1988, $777.7 million [rpt 777.7 million dollars]. Second: Development loans from the establishment of the state until 1985 reached $2,755.2 million. These are development loans. From 1985 until 1988, $1,192.9 million. We are speaking in dollars. Military loans until the end of 1985 have reached $1,369.4 million. From the end of 1985 until 1988 military loans reached $3,181.8 million. Fourth [as heard], there were no public security loans from the establishment of the state until the end of 1985. From 1985 until 1988, they reached $155.4 million. Fifth, there also are the other development loans that were guaranteed by the government. We also guaranteed the Jordan Petroleum Company, Jordan Cement Factories, and others, like Alia, the Royal Jordanian. Other development loans guaranteed by the government reached $1,300.3 million until the end of 1985. From the end of 1985 until 1988 these development loans guaranteed by the government reached $827.6 million. Therefore, allocations of the debts I have mentioned since the establishment of the state and until the end of 1985 amount to $5,617.2 million. From the end of 1985 until 1988 they reached $6,135.4 million. This shows the state's indebtedness from 1985 until 1988 exceeds the state's indebtedess since its establishment in 1921 until 1985 by 10 percent.

The nation's development thrust started in the mid-seventies and continued into the early eighties. Arab and foreign loans contributed to this development. Essentially, loans taken during that period for development expenses, which led to high development levels in the national economy, were no less than 9 percent annually of the Gross National Product [GNP].

Despite the loans, there was a 9 percent increase in the GNP—one of the highest development rates in the world. This portrayed Jordan as one of the fastest developing Third World countries in terms of growth. It raised the per capita income from the low-income category to the medium income category according to international standards.

Between 1985 and 1988, the development growth was non-existent. It might be true some of the projects established during that period faced some difficulties. That is not strange, however, in development projects. Time has proven the usefulness of most of these projects. Projects such as potash, fertilizers, glass and others now greatly contribute toward developing exportation and increasing the kingdom's foreign currency assets. The returns from these—now that we need dollars—the returns from these factories have amounted to $600 million annually—these so-called unsuccessful projects.

I am a person who always accepts responsibility and does not burden anyone else with unsuccessful projects, as long as I have contributed toward them. Unfortunately, when the honorable deputy enumerates these projects and writes that they are unsuccessful, I have to dig into the history of their establishment. Yes, the Fertilizer Company was set up by a decision from the Economic Security Committee when the honorable Deputy Dhuqan al-Hindawi was finance minister—head of the Economic Security Committee and finance minister, Dhuqan al-Hindawi. Jordan Glass Industries was set up in August 1974 or 1975, I think; at any rate, before I stepped in. However, I am not slighting these projects. Even the glass factory now is making a profit. It is providing this homeland with foreign currency. There are hundreds of employees in this factory.

The Fertilizer Company did not fail, either. The Fertilizer Company witnessed a setback when the price of sulphur went up internationally, when the price of fertilizers dropped in the world market, and when hundreds of fertilizer companies were shut down all over the world. The fertilizer factory in Jordan was not shut down. This we call unsuccessful. The same goes for the Potash Factory. The Potash Factory, my brothers, has no equal in the world except by our enemy Israel. Therefore, it is unique, a first and new experience. Building new dams and planning for this project were new. Everything in it was new. Potash in Canada is extracted from mines, not from water, the water of the Dead Sea. This is a technologically complicated process. Experts said we would face difficulties in the future. They enumerated them, and we solved them in various ways. There were no ready reports available to us. There was no genius to tell us of this or that mistake. We knew there were mistakes. We tried this factory. When mistakes emerged we dealt with them in one way or another. These reports are filed in the Potash Factory. Is this an unsuccessful project? It is a successful project since it solves an unemployment issue. These projects, according to statistics and accurate figures, which we accuse of being unsuccessful, now bring in $600 million to Jordan.

Esteemed deputies, foreign loans were justified during that period. However, the loans after 1984, and after it became clear the Arab aid was reduced, contributed to the deterioration of the economic situation from which we are suffering. It is not true loan contracts after 1984 were signed to pay the obligations of previous loans. This is because the distribution of loans, as I previously have explained, shows that under the best circumstances a sum not exceeding $777.7 million was borrowed for this purpose, while the other sums were borrowed for specific purposes, particularly military ones, which constitute a new financial burden in foreign currency. The Arab aid Jordan received was spent on arming our Army. A modern tank division was established, all old tanks were modernized, and the Mirage planes and the air defense systems were purchased. The cost of all these was paid in cash and not through loans. Here I ask: Why did his excellency the esteemed deputy ignore the internal debt, and how does this reflect on the credibility of the detailed explanation he has given?

The huge deficit in the budget since 1985 has exceeded all safe limits and led to the growth of the unpaid balance in the internal debt by 921.7 million dinars at the end of 1988, while this debt, from the establishment of the state until the end of 1984, did not exceed 342 million dinars. This means the volume of the internal debt was doubled three times during just 4 years and increased by 580 million dinars, or approximately $1.740 billion based on the parity rate at that time. Consequently, the increase in the internal debt, in addition to the expansion in foreign debt, has increased debts during just 4 years by $8 billion. Here we should say and emphasize that most of the increase in the internal debt was financed by extraordinary credits or sums of money, which were withdrawn illegally from the Central Bank. This has contributed seriously to exhausting the foreign currency in the bank and led to the sale and mortgaging of approximately one-third of its gold assets without an official decision by its board of directors.

The story of the high increase in expenditure during my premiership of the government, however, as mentioned by the esteemed deputy, really is a strange story. He has forgotten that the importance of an increase in expenditure is measured by the volume of deficit in the budget. The total deficit during the years the esteemed deputy spoke of, namely 1979, 1981, 1982, 1983, reached 318 million dinars. This means by an annual rate of 79 million dinars, while the deficit in the years 1985 to 1988 reached 669 million dinars, an annual rate of 167 million dinars. A simple question poses itself here: Did his excellency know this? I will leave this for your esteemed House. I will leave the decision whether he knew or had no knowledge of this with your esteemed House. If there were debts before 1983, then everyone knows the extent of the cultural leap Jordan made. There are many examples, and here I mention only a few: Amman International Airport was built, which, from memory, cost 90 million dinars, including its motorway. Two universities were built in the north, and electricity now serves 97 percent of the people. I would like to reply to one of the deputies—who said 97 percent is an inaccurate figure—by saying if electricity has not reached part of Marka, this is because the people there refuse to pay fees to the Electricity Authority. So, this is none of our business; there is an Electricity Authority that takes care of this. Anyway, it covers 97 percent, and every esteemed deputy who knows Jordan's countryside knows this figure is accurate.

The same goes for water. There were major water projects. There also were fertilizer, potash, urban development, the Jordan basin, and the telecommunications projects. This project sought to transform Amman into an international investment center, not just a tourist area. This project sought to make it an international center. Without telecommunications, no one will invest here. There also was the entire infrastructure to develop Jordan, such as the building of schools and hospitals. In a session I wish to keep short, I cannot review all achievements. Everyone knows what was achieved at that stage.

I do not know why the honorable deputy attacked the government's promise to have every official who assumes political or senior administrative responsibilities submit a documented affidavit on all that he, his wife, and his children possess, whether they are movable or immovable, not to mention the changes that will affect them in the future, and why he has submitted the issue in such a dramatic manner that implies the government will forget all past financial corruption. He has forgotten that immediately before it made such a promise, the government had pledged to cooperate with your esteemed House to expose the various aspects of financial corruption to cleanse our beloved country from its evils and repercussions. The government will not be lenient toward indiscipline and corruption.

Brothers, the issue of corruption sometimes is spoken of arbitrarily, without any sense of responsibility, as if one seeks to draw applause when he mentions this word. This word does not need applause. It needs tears. I am proud to mention when I was prime minister, I brought to the military court hundreds of persons on charges of corruption and bribery. There were major cases. A case involving 60 people left no one in the Income Tax Department unquestioned or untried. Fair sentences were meted to the culprits. There also was the case which became known as the marketing of tomatoes case, or rather the stealing of tomatoes. In this case, 85 people were accused of stealing, and were brought to trial. I used to stalk corruption out of my belief and conviction. I brought my closest friends to trial because I have no right to protect anyone who commits a crime. If I protect him, I would be violating the trust that God, before man, has placed in me. I am proud of my integrity. I also am proud of my sincerity. To me, honesty is tantamount to honor. Any person who harms my integrity would be committing a great crime against me. [applause] Brothers, honesty and integrity is not that you discover whether I am honest. To me, honesty is a religious Islamic concept.

Esteemed deputies, the basic condition for combatting corruption is the availability of the political will to confront this social disease. The government often has voiced full commitment to combating all forms of corruption, and to bringing to trial all those against whom there is evidence that they are involved in corruption. The legislation the government has said it intends to formulate soon will find their way to your esteemed House, foremost being legislation to combat economic crimes, regulate the work of agents and brokers, and compel those who assume political and senior administrative responsibilities to submit a written, documented affidavit on all that they, their wives, and their children possess.

The government believes all this legislation, which reflects the political desire to combat corruption and illegal wealth, can cleanse our society of this disease and reveal pockets of corruption, wherever they may be. It will work to ensure these regulations include clauses that allow followups on everyone proven to be involved in corruption or illegal accumulation of wealth, regardless when they occurred.

The government's commitment to combating corruption is serious and true one that does not accept any leniency or compromise. It commits itself to opening the file of financial corruption without time restraints or having to stop on a certain date. Revealing all dimensions of the indebtedness and the reasons for the economic crisis and financial corruption calls for carrying out a comprehensive investigation by a committee formed by your honorable House. This measure will take its full course to reveal the whole truth concerning the issue of those who are proven to have played a role in the events that brought us to our current financial situation. Those proven to have accepted bribes, exploited their posts, or abused them will be tried. This will be followed by the dismissal of any minister or responsible official from his post when evidence rules they should be referred to the judiciary. In addition, immunity will be lifted from any deputy proven to have played a role in corruption so the judiciary can make its decision about him. [applause]

Regarding what the esteemed deputy said—I hasten to deck it with the expression God is Great—Dr Ahmad 'Uwayd al-'Abbadi, concerning certain issues that can be categorized as slander and pillorying, I did not wish to touch on this topic. From this podium, however, Mr 'Atif al-Battush asked the prime minister to explain. If this House wishes that I explain, then I shall explain everything [applause], everything without exception. It would have been more respectable for the honorable deputy who sent someone to Jarash to investigate the property of Mudar Badran to have come to Mudar Badran himself or gone to ask one of the Jarash deputies. He would have given him the full details on what he inherited in al-Kittah and Jarash, what he bought and what he owned. However, every single penny in this property is earned honestly because illicit gains will destroy their makers. I do not eat food bought with illicit gains.

I shall not read the report, unless you want me to. I shall not read it. Do you want me to read it? I wonder what the respectable deputy Dr Ahmad 'Uwayd al-'Abbadi has reported concerning certain issues categorized as slander and pillorying. I wonder with surprise and astonishment how a deputy of the people—who once was an officer in the Public Security, whose office was in the headquarters itself and in its main information center—I wonder how he gives himself the right to ignore the facts he knows better than anyone, to delve into the honor of people, and attack innocent people contrary to our Arab traditions and texts of the holy book. He mentioned in a meeting between us he is faithful, that he prays, and that he fears God. He attacks the innocent, contradicting our Arab traditions and the texts of the holy book, which set a principled, morally committing condition on mankind to confirm the truth of what he says, so he will not to fall prey to rumors and whims and become a target. Should he not have followed the Almighty's words: Oh ye who believe! If a wicked person comes to you with any news, ascertain the truth, lest ye harm people unwittngly, and afterwards become full of repentance for what ye have done. [Koranic verse]

Regarding this issue, I do not want to read an investigation that the public prosecutor has documented and the court has settled. All names connected with this case do not include any officials. [applause] I challenge anyone on this. Some of you have read it. Those whose names are listed in this case know this. These names are kept by the criminal section of the Public Security Department, and the court has settled it. I would like to ask the former doyen of lawyers: Am I telling the truth or not? Just say yes or no? Yes. [applause]

For your information, I do not own any piece of land in al-Nu'ayyimah, on the circular highway, or elsewhere. I do not own any piece of land in the entire area, none at all. The records at the Land Department prove this. Members of the royal committee for building al-Yarmuk University know, and some of them are sitting here, including His Excellency Dhuqan al-Hindawi and His Excellency Dr Ishaq al-Farhan, that when we surveyed the land, we took an oath not to tell anyone about it so people would not rush to buy surrounding lands to trade with them. None of us bought land at all. We took an oath on this because we had confidence in each other.

Regarding esteemed deputy Fakhri Q'awar: I used to enjoy your writings. Unfortunately, I have not had a lengthy talk with you. Our contacts have been through your writings. I will continue to enjoy your writings. If I cannot endure what you have said, then I will not be qualified for this experiment, especially since I sit here only for the sake of this experiment. [applause] Had it been for me as a person, I swear to God I immediately would have left this place and House. However, I endured many insults to my person—why? Merely to render this experiment a success. I do not seek premiership, and I apologized to assume premiership several times. However, when the lord of the country asks me to serve the public, I must obey him. [applause]. Is it a disgrace that I once was director of the Intelligence Department and to ask me whether I am qualified to become a prime minister? Yes, I am qualified to be a prime minister several times. [applause] What did the director of the Intelligence Department, Mudar Badran, do during 1968, 1969, and the beginning of 1970? I left the office because I was ill, not to evade my responsibilities—no, I do not evade my responsibilities. You are aware of the situation in the country at that time—go back in memory to that time. Israel wanted to attack this country, and preparations were underway in the Arab Republic of Egypt. This is the Intelligence Department, and I am proud to tell all the brothers I am proud to be the son of the Intelligence Department. There is nothing wrong with this. Look at other states. Andropov was the head of the KGB, and Bush was a CIA director. They are heads of superpowers. Is this disgraceful? It is a national department that protected this country and sacrificed for its sake, and its members defended this country and its regime under the most difficult circumstances.

Esteemed deputies, my papers have become mixed up, so I will continue as follows: I am a person who is difficult to infuriate. I apologize if I became angry, because, as I have said, attacking my honesty is a painful, deep wound in my heart. Therefore, I do not know how I behaved before your esteemed House. I apologize for any misbehavior. However, I announce before your esteemed House that I will be the first to submit a statement on my movable and immovable properties and how they have come into my possession, so I will be an example for others. I do not do this because doubt has been cast on me, but to be an example. I will write down everything I own so no one will refuse to do so. I will write down the sources, the time, and everything on this issue. I also will cover all the past periods. At any time, and in the future, even if I am not in office, any of my brothers can come to my house and ask me, from where did you get this?

Esteemed deputies, democracy, which we are enjoying, necessitates that I bow to anyone who gave an objective opinion about the policy statement, regardless of the degree of agreement or disagreement with me, and whether he gave or withheld confidence to the government. I also appreciate the concern of those whose objective was to enrich the democratic experiment, protect it, and safeguard it by awareness, freedom, right, ethics, and honesty. Those who attacked my person and sought to defame me, I tell them I ask God to forgive them. May God's peace and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Reportage on Fighting Around Iqlim al-Tuffah

Intermittent Clashes Reported

NC0101103590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] Intermittent clashes involving machineguns and rockets are taking place in the towns of Jarju', Kafr Fila, Kafr Milki, and 'Ayn Qana in Iqlim al-Tuffah. Meanwhile the two warring parties in the area continue to trade accusations. An Hizballah source has said that the villages of Jba', Kafr Fila, Kafr Milki, 'Ayn Qana, 'Ayn Bu Siwar, and Jabal Safi came under fierce shelling this morning and that several fires broke out in Jba'. A source in Amal Movement denied this report, saying that only limited skirmishes are taking place in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Amal Claims Attack Repulsed

NC0201100390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] Intermittent clashes are taking place in Iqlim al-Tuffah following a bout of fierce fighting at dawn today.

An Amal Movement military source issued a statement saying that its forces repulsed an attack by Hizballah this morning. Hizballah shelled Kafr Hatta and the roads leading to that town. Fierce fighting took place between Amal Movement forces and Hizballah close to Kafr Hatta and Tallat Hamadah. All types of weapons were used. The statement mentioned that a number of the attackers were killed or wounded.

'Heavy' Fighting Continues

NC0201143590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] Heavy fighting continues in Iqlim al-Tuffah amid reports of attacks and counterattacks, as well as a military buildup along the combat lines of Kafr Milki, al-Luwayzah, and 'Ayn Bu Siwar.

An Amal Movement military official issued a statement today on the course of events in Iqlim al-Tuffah. He accused Hizballah of launching a seditious campaign in the region. The official noted several villages, particularly Kafr Hatta and the roads leading to it, came under concentrated bombardment from Hizballah positions in Kafr Milki, al-Luwayzah, and 'Ayn Bu Siwar as part of an attempt by Hizballah to advance toward the movement's positions in Duhur Kafr Hatta and Tallat Hamadah. Fierce fighting involving all types of weapons broke out between the movement's troops and the attackers. The official stressed that Amal fighters succeeded in checking the attack.

'Unilateral Cease-Fire' Reported

NC0301085090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] Hizballah has announced a unilateral cease-fire in Iqlim al-Tuffah. An Amal spokesman has declined comment on this move.

Meanwhile, intermittent fighting continues in Iqlim al-Tuffah for the 12th consecutive day.

Fighting, Accusations Continue

NC0301104990 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] According to reports from the south, intermittent clashes involving machineguns and rockets are taking place between Amal Movement and Hizballah along the combat lines in Kafr Hatta, Kafr Milki, and Tallat Hamadah.

Meanwhile, the two parties continue to trade accusations. Hizballah has accused Amal Movement of resuming today its shelling of the villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah. It said Hizballah's gunmen have been unilaterally observing a cease-fire since 0200 today. Amal Movement has denied Hizballah has been observing a cease-fire and accused it of launching an offensive at dawn today to capture Tallat Hamadah, which overlooks Kafr Hatta.

AFP cited Amal Movement sources as saying the movement will not cease fire unless Hizballah withdraws from the towns it recently occupied.

Amal Official Killed

NC0301155090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri is in mourning today for martyred leader Hasan Ja'far Abu-Jamal, the movement's official in charge of the south, who fell in the Iqlim al-Tuffah battles.

Delegation Meets PFLP Member

NC0201103190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] Amal members Haytham Jum'ah and Bassam Tulays visited the headquarters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and met with PFLP Command member Abu-Fadi Raji. Both sides emphasized their refusal to partition Lebanon and stressed the importance of strengthening the national Lebanese-Palestinian-Syrian relations. They also underscored the need to end the war in Iqlim al-Tuffah and to settle all disputes among brothers through dialogue, because continuing these battles only will serve the Zionist enemy and contribute to deviating the struggle in the Lebanese arena.

Fatah Blocks Reinforcements

NC3112183089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Text] In connection with the ongoing conflict between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in Iqlim al-Tuffah, Hizballah media sources said that Jiba' came under fierce artillery and rocket shelling this afternoon. Amal sources did not comment.

Meanwhile, AFP reported that the Fatah movement established roadblocks along the road leading to Buslayya hill and prevented reinforcements from reaching the two warring sides.

Fatah Forces Deployed

NC0101200790 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] Intermittent clashes between Amal and Hizballah fighters are currently taking place along the combat lines of Kafr Milki, Kafr Fila, and Jarju' in Iqlim al-Tuffah. Rockets and machineguns are being used in the fighting. According to the most recent casualty toll, 59 people have been killed and 220 wounded.

In another development, REUTER cited a Palestinian source as saying that Fatah fighters have been deployed in some Iqlim villages not only to stop the clashes, but also to prevent Hizballah fighters from reaching areas close to the Palestinian camps and from joining elements opposing Yasir 'Arafat.

Meanwhile, a responsible source in the so-called Islamic Resistance this evening said that resistance positions in al-Luwayzah in Iqlim al-Tuffah have been subjected to concentrated bombardment from Israeli positions since 1930.

Palestinians Deploy

NC0301130190 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Iqlim al-Tuffah remains a hotbed of tension between the Amal Movement and Hizballah. Fighting between the two sides has been going on for almost 2 weeks. No serious efforts have been made to end the conflict on the basis of an agreement to which the two sides can commit themselves. Drawing attention to the fighting is the appearance of a Palestinian disengagement force between the two sides vis-a-vis hesitant Iranian efforts to influence the course of events.

Observers have noted that the Iranians have not upgraded the level of their mediation. While Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati was scheduled to intervene to end the fighting, his deputy Mohammad 'Ali Besharati was again entrusted with the mediation task. This is despite the fact that he has not succeeded in his attempts to bring about a cease-fire between the two sides.

Against this background, fighting continued in Iqlim al-Tuffah today. The Palestinians have intervened as a disengagement force and deployed on Buslayya and Hamadah hills. While the two sides have exchanged accusations, Amal Movement sources have called for an official and serious Iranian position calling on Hizballah to abide by the cease-fire. Hizballah, meanwhile, called for a unilateral cease-fire. [passage omitted]

Al-Tufayli News Conference Held

NC2912134189 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli held a news conference this morning at which he said: I was hoping that at this news conference I would be able to announce an agreement to end the fighting between us and the Amal Movement. However, I regret to say that such an agreement, which we have been sincerely seeking and for which all our kinfolk are impatiently waiting, has not yet been achieved because some persons are absent and commanding the fighting in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

He added: We previously emphasized that we are committed to a cease-fire despite the fact that the other side has not frankly and clearly said that it accepts the cease-fire. We transcended many formalities and unhesitatingly responded to the initiative of Dr Mohammad 'Ali Besharati, envoy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, on the following day, the other side surprised us by laying down conditions, demonstrating its bravado, and making speeches urging the fighters to fight in Kafr Hatta and elsewhere.

Al-Tufayli went on to say: We bitterly regret that the other side attaches no value to the blood of our kinfolk in Jabal 'Amil—so much so that they completely refuse to stop shooting at our kinfolk in their villages, homes, and property, and insist on bombarding them with all types of artillery and rockets. He added: How can we be assured that those who do not abide by the cease-fire and openly and unashamedly brag about this will commit themselves to any solution at which we and they may arrive? What understanding can be reached when one party to the conflict is on the front line flexing its muscles, making threats, and not abiding by the cease-fire, while the other party is given one condition after another which it must accept or be killed?

Shaykh al-Tufayli said: Despite all this, we very frankly and clearly emphasize our commitment to the cease-fire and our adherence to the initiative of the envoy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We again declare our eagerness to bring about the success of this initiative in order to staunch the blood of our kinfolk and rescue our Islamic and nationalist arena. He said: We welcome all the sincere efforts our brothers and friends in Syria and among the Islamic and nationalist forces have exerted and continue to exert in order to achieve a cease-fire.

Shaykh al-Tufayli added: We say that there still is a precious opportunity to respond to the appeals for reason and rationality to prevail, to ward off from our kinfolk and people in Jabal 'Amil the nightmare of sedition and destructive fighting, and to abide unconditionally by the cease-fire. Al-Tufayli said: At the same time we say that we are afraid for the Islamic resistance; there is a serious plan that is threatening its existence and continuation. Under no circumstances will we accept the implementation of this plan under any slogan, however instigatory, fanatical, or tumultuous. We believe that resistance to the Zionist enemy is an honor for all of us and a cause of pride and dignity. We will not allow anyone to threaten or contain this resistance in accordance with his ambitions and sectarian political and opportunistic plans. Our fate and the fate of our brother resistance fighters, in their various political, Islamic, and national affiliations, is one.

Shaykh al-Tufayli asserted: In any case, we believe that we must end this hateful war through an immediate and unconditional cease-fire. We must also arrive at a serious mechanism that will ensure the implementation of the Damascus agreements completely and not partially. We believe that dialogue is the only radical means to reach such an understanding. Moreover, we believe that the way to ensure the real salvation of our cause, our arena, and even our existence is to attain a unified Islamic-nationalist political plan that is based on the lowest common denominators among all the Islamic and nationalist forces concerned with waging the conflict against the common basic enemy. This enemy is represented by the Zionist entity and its agents at home—the champions of political Maronism and the advocates of the separatist-partitionist trend led by Michel 'Awn and his military clique in the eastern area.

Shaykh al-Tufayli concluded by saying: We extend our hand to all those who are eager to safeguard their national, pan-Arab, and Islamic causes and call on them to crystallize a plan in which we find real and serious solutions for our stifling crises.

Fatah Official on Deployment

NC0301161990 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] Tension prevails in Iqlim al-Tuffah, while skirmishes with machineguns and rockets continue on the Kafr Milki and Kafr Hatta combat lines.

Zayd Wahbah, the Fatah Movement's official in the south, has announced the movement is ready to deploy anywhere without asking anyone's permission. He asserted the movement had decided to deploy to prevent the fighting from spreading.

In another development today, Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din addressed cables to Iranian leader 'Ali Khamene'i, Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the ongoing battles in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Islamic Resistance on 'Scheme'

NC3112080889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Text] According to the latest reports from Iqlim al-Tuffah, extreme tension continues to prevail along the various combat lines which were the scene of violent clashes between Hizballah and Amal fighters yesterday, particularly in Kafr Fila, Jarju', and Kafr Hatta. Numerous villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah came under artillery and rocket bombardment from Amal positions yesterday, causing further loss of life and damage to property.

The clashes abated last night, but the shelling of Islamic Resistance positions with heavy armaments and rockets continued.

Commenting on yesterday's incidents, an official source in the Islamic Resistance said: As part of the destructive scheme to raze the villages which are standing fast against the enemy and while the Zionists continue their meddling, Amal's artillery and rocket launchers continue to pound the secure villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah. Meanwhile, the Zionist enemy's artillery shelled 'Ayn Bu Siwar and Jabal Safi.

The source added: As of 0415 yesterday Kafr Milki, 'Ayn Qana, Kafr Fila, and 'Ayn Bu Siwar came under violent artillery shelling from Amal positions. At the same time, the enemy's artillery began to direct concentrated fire against 'Ayn Bu Siwar and Islamic Resistance positions in Jabal Safi.

The source continued: The Islamic Resistance, which has held out its hand to cooperate with all sincere people in order to end this bloodshed, cannot but regard Amal's continuation of hostilities and its destructive bombardment of the secure villages, which coincides with the persistent Zionist aggression, as part of a suspect plan to liquidate the resistance and end its struggle. Nabih Birri's boastful statements and threats are nothing more than a manifestation of this plan, which we will be compelled to confront in order to safeguard the resistance.

According to reports, the occupation forces shelled Jabal Safi and Mlita from their positions in the Sujud hill at about 2130 yesterday.

Shiites Asked To Stop Help

NC3012173789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] The Amal Movement has made the following appeal to the citizens in al-Biqa':

O promising and proud people of al-Biqa'. O sons of the great oath of loyalty. O brothers, sons, kinsmen, and clan of Imam Musa al-Sadr. Hizballah is insisting on igniting a lasting and bloody sedition. It ignited it yesterday in the Southern Suburb and Beirut and in Western al-Biqa' before that and is doing so in the south today. Your sons, the sons of Islam and the homeland, are its fuel. You can help extinguish it by not supplying it with fuel. Ban your sons from getting into its fire and thus preserve the great oath and save your kinsmen in the south, al-Biqa', and elsewhere.

The Amal Movement, the movement of leader Imam Musa al-Sadr, is of you and for you. You have been part of this movement from the time you took the oath in Ba'labak'. The Amal Movement believes that politics should serve Islam while Hizballah has made Islam in politics the policy of others on our territories.

If the south falls, you will fall with it and neither homeland nor religion will rise after that. We entreat you in the name of the blood of the martyrs and Imam al-Sadr's dignity to stand up—clans, families,and individuals—and form a formidable barrier against your sons and our sons who have been deceived and prevent them from being fuel for the sedition and its aims and tools for the aggression on the resisting south and its steadfast people.

SLA Shells Positions

NC0201161890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] The 11th day of constant battles between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in Iqlim al-Tuffah was extremely violent. Amal succeeded in gaining some respite.

Sources on both sides said fierce shelling continues on all fronts, particularly in Kafr Milki, Jarju', and Kafr Hatta. An Amal security source said this afternoon, during a counterattack on Hizballah, the movement recaptured a hill overlooking Kafr Hatta. Hizballah refused to comment on this report and only said it is now in a defensive, not an offensive position. The agency [as heard] cited an Amal fighter as saying he counted eight dead Hizballah fighters on the recaptured hill.

It was learned from a security source in the South that Hasan Ja'far, alias Abu-Jamal, the Amal Movement's military official in charge of the South, was killed today in the Kafr Hatta battles. An Amal source, however, denied Abu Jamal had been killed.

AFP said 10 wounded Amal fighters had been taken to a hospital in Sidon.

In another development, Hizballah has reported the position of the Islamic resistance in Dahr Abu-Shahin came under constant and fierce shelling at 1130 today from 155-mm artillery of the South Lebanese Army [SLA], and two resistance men had been killed and five others injured. Hizballah said this shelling was carried out within the framework of the cooperation between the Amal Movement and the SLA to cut off communication lines between Western al-Biqa' and Iqlim al-Tuffah and to let the SLA shell the Islamic resistance positions, particularly Tallat Mlikh and Dahr Abu-Shahin, and cut off the roads from Jarju' to 'Ayn Bu Siwar, 'Ayn Qana, Kafr Fila, Kfar Milki, and Jba'. Hizballah added that Amal's accusation it is cooperating with the SLA only is meant to hide the existing collaboration between Israel, the SLA, and Amal against Hizballah.

Amal: Hizballah Paid for Passage

NC3112071289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Text] Iqlim al-Tuffah remains in a state of eruption amid unsuccessful mediation efforts and mutual accusations. There were sporadic exchanges of heavy-caliber weapons fire between Amal and Hizballah throughout the night on the Kafr Fila, Kafr Hatta, and 'Ayn Qana combat lines. AFP reports a casualty toll of 57 dead and 211 wounded since the fighting began 9 days ago.

The Amal Movement continues to reject any Palestinian, or other, disengagement force. The Fatah Movement had reported that its units deployed in a number of positions to prevent the clashes from spreading to new areas.

Amal has accused Hizballah of making arrangements with Israel to enable its fighters to reach the Iqlim al-Tuffah mountains. Amal official 'Atif 'Awn announced that he has proof that Iran and Hizballah paid $250,000 to the South Lebanese Army to allow Hizballah personnel to cross the Jazzin area which separates Hizballah's positions in western al-Biqa' and Iqlim al-Tuffah, where Hizballah is launching attacks on Amal.

Hizballah sources, however, have asserted that its fighters are crossing the Jazzin area secretly, just as they do when they launch attacks on Israel.

Meanwhile, a source in the so-called Islamic Resistance, the military arm of Hizballah, has announced that its positions in Mlita and Jabal Safi came under fire from Israeli positions in the Sujud hill.

Fadlallah Urges End to Clashes

LD3012111989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] Allamah Sayyed Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, stressing that the current clashes between the revolutionary movement of Hezbollah and the Amal movement are destructive, requested an end to the clashes.

According to an IRNA report, Allamah Fadlallah, speaking in the Friday prayer sermons yesterday held at Imam Reza Mosque in the southern areas of Beirut, added that it is expected that everyone will abide by the voice of Islam and avoid small and marginal differences in order to safeguard the greater issues.

While thanking the Islamic Republic of Iran for its efforts to end the clashes, he asked Syria to help those efforts.

Khamene'i Urged To Stop Arms Supplies

NC0101181290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] Guarded calm prevails in Iqlim al-Tuffah marred by intermittent clashes involving the use of machineguns and rockets between Amal Movement and Hizballah gunmen. There have been no reports of any casualties.

Meanwhile, Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri this morning received in his office in the south popular delegations from southern villages including 'Ayn Qana, Jibshit, Kafr Hatta, and Jwayya.

Addressing the delegations, Minister Birri said: It is a plot to partition Lebanon. It seems that the unity of Lebanon is no longer a demand. What is currently being demanded is Lebanon's return to desolation. They have partitioned this country beginning with the south, the border strip, and now this strip has been extended to 'Awn and his farcical rallies. The events in Iqlim al-Tuffah reflect this reality and seek to complete the partition.

Continuing, Minister Birri added: The supply of arms and ammunition with which our people are being killed must stop. On your behalf, I call on God Almighty, the prophets, and Ayatollah Khamene'i. I tell Ayatollah Khamene'i: I am being killed with the arms and ammunition given to Hizballah. You have the power to stop this. I have pledged allegiance and I will not go back on my pledge. It is they who have gone back on their pledge. This is my final stand. Let them know that I will neither retreat nor slacken. The south will remain and will never be invaded by either Alexander the Great or al-Jazzar [known as the butcher of 'Akko and responsible for massacre in the 18th century], and naturally not by [Hizballah Secretary General] Subhi al-Tufayli. Let them know once again that we are prepared to forget the past, to forgive, and to embrace them all provided they return to their senses and set no conditions. But there is talk about conditions. This makes them equal to Israel. This people who subdued Israel will only submit to God Almighty. However, let them learn the lesson of the shah of Iran and of what has recently occurred in Romania. Let them know that the Romanian dictator who killed 60,000 people and injured 300,000 was later brought down by the people. We tell them: We are with the Islamic, national, and Lebanese resistance, but all this should take place through the people and the south. If the south falls, they and their resistance will fall.

Commentary Views Birri Position

NC0201100090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0650 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Radio political commentary: "One Community and Not Two"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

Anyone with a sense of personal or political honor would be ashamed to turn on those who were good and kind to him, particularly if that person has, because of that goodness and kindness, acceded to positions that are loftier than what he is suited for. [passage omitted]

Yesterday, we and other Muslims were stunned to hear Minister Nabih Birri directing insults and abuse at the officials of the Islamic Republic, in total disregard of religious, political, or even diplomatic decorum. In a tantrum that reflected the desperation of his position, Birri released his pent-up anger and disclosed the sentiments he has long harbored. Despite everything that Iranian and Lebanese Muslims have done for Birri, in terms of good will and honest dealing, Birri dismissed all possibility of dialogue and agreement, smothered all hopes of reconciliation, and declared a relentless war against the Islamists. Birri asked all forces to help him exterminate that new enemy which has until so recently been his close ally.

Propagating a new thesis that completely contradicted anything he ever stood for before, Birri said that the problem now in Lebanon is no longer Michel 'Awn and his partitionist state in East Beirut, or the Israeli occupation of a part of the south, but the presence of Hizballah and the Islamic resistance in the troubled Iqlim al-Tuffah and the beleaguered western al-Biqa.

Birri also called on al-Hirawi's government to liberate the south from the Islamic resistance first and then turn its efforts to eliminate 'Awn's mini-state.

These very serious opinions of Birri suggest in one way or another that a new canton, somewhat similar to that which has been established in East Beirut, is being planned surreptitiously and with astonishingly little opposition.

We will not go into a detailed discussion of what the minister said or its implications in terms of the establishment of another canton, for the significance of what he said is too clear to warrant any explanations. The minister may wish to retract these statements if they were due to his agitated state of mind during the past few days. It is up to him either to retract these statements and explain them away or confirm what he stated. In the latter case, the matter is really quite serious. [passage omitted]

However, and despite Birri's hostile remarks, we wish to recall that the only recourse for Hizballah and the Amal Movement is dialogue and agreement. Estrangement is simply not allowed in the ranks of the Shiites and other Muslims. Anyone who wants to split or break ranks with the Shiite community will have to act alone. Muslims, and particularly Shiites, will just thank him. May God guide us all.

Hizballah on Amal Dialogue

NC0101081490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Husayn Qurani reiterated Hizballah's call to the Amal Movement for dialogue and understaning to deal with the causes and not the results of events in Iqlim al-Tuffah. He emphasized the need to maintain freedom and continuation of the Islamic resistance in confronting the Zionist enemy. He said: We insist that dialogue is the only way to save the people. However, they say there would be no dialogue or understanding.

Shaykh Qurani said: We have tolerated a great deal of oppression and mistreatment since the resistance was struck in southern Lebanon. We have remained silent and continue to bear this mistreatement yet we extend our hands and our hearts are open for dialogue. We do not want to rule Jabal 'Amil but we want freedom for resistance to keep its banner fluttering in fighting Israel.

Shaykh Qurani noted that the Amal Movement initiated the fighting and surrounded the strugglers' positions, brought militry reinforcements, and violated the Damascus agreement. He said: We have asked everyone for help to lift the siege on strugglers in Safi and al-Luwayzah, but no one responded to our call.

McCarthy Suggests Moving Embassy to West Beirut

NC0301081290 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] The AL-SUHUFIYAH news agency cites informed sources as having said U.S. Ambassador McCarthy has proposed moving the U.S. Embassy in Lebanon from 'Awkar in the eastern area to the western area. McCarthy has notified the U.S. officials concerned about this matter. There is a tendency to move the embassy to either al-Dawhah or Khaldah area.

The sources added this new U.S. measure coincides with quasi-confirmed reports that President Ilyas al-Hirawi intends to reside in al-Dawhah area, where the legitimate authority will establish itself for the time being, and where it would be easier to conduct meetings, especially because the house of Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss is in al-Dawhah area.

Diplomatic Missions Asked To Freeze Arms Shipments

NC0201171690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has sent cables to the Lebanese diplomatic missions in Washington, Paris, Brussels, Rome, and the Netherlands requesting them to carry out the following instructions:

1. Freeze all current or future negotiations concerning the purchase of any type of arms, spare parts, ammunition, and equipment for the Lebanese Army;

2. Freeze arms shipments of all kinds destined for the Lebanese Army; and

3. Freeze and impound all funds earlier put at the disposal of the Lebanese military attaches' offices.

The cables asked the missions to await the instructions which Defense Minister Dr Albert Mansur will issue and which will be forwarded through the Foreign Ministry.

Minister Mansur on 'Awn Stand, al-Ta'if Accord

NC2812155689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Defense Minister Albert Mansur has declared that the problem in Lebanon is one of rebellion and mutiny as a result of General 'Awn's control, through a group of his militiamen, of parts of the Lebanese Army in al-Yarzah and adjacent areas.

In an interview with AL-DIYAR newspaper, he said the options are either that of legitimacy and the success of the al-Ta'if accord or a return to the pre-al-Ta'if situation. Such a return, he added, would mean random and destructive infighting. He noted: The primary aim of our government is to prevent a return to the situation that existed before the al-Ta'if accord.

Replying to a question, he said the al-Ta'if accord has been supported by the Syrians, guaranteed by the Arabs, and agreed upon by the UN Security Council. In 'Awn's view it is not the al-Ta'if accord that is at issue, but the question of who is going to govern, he said. Had the deputies elected General 'Awn president, 'Awn would have approved the al-Ta'if accord, Mansur asserted.

Minister Mansur said: If General 'Awn is the only politician or official left in this country who seeks Lebanon's sovereignty, then I believe this country is not worthy to survive and should be dumped into the sea.

He urged those who still support 'Awn to resort to reason, logic, and deliberation, rather than instinct. He said: If there are some deluded or infatuated persons who think they can establish a Christian statelet, no matter how small, I believe they are misleadiing the people and cheating themselves and the public, because the fate of the inhabitants of this mini-homeland would be emigration to Canada, Australia, or elsewhere.

He described the parliamentary elections which 'Awn has announced for 7 January as an absolute farce. He asserted that the danger of this act does not lie in the mere holding of the elections, which really is a histrionic and ridiculous process as well as a farce, but in the intention to bring about partition that lies behind it. Therefore, he said, this is the great danger which will drag the Christians into a radical and partitionist position, destructive to the Christians in Lebanon in particular.

New Organization Pledges To Resist 'Awn

NC0201112790 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic [illegible] Dec 89 p 4

[Text] AL-SAFIR has received a call from an unidentified person claiming to speak on behalf of a previously unknown organization, namely, the Organization of the Free People—14 February [Munazzamat al-Sha'b al-Hurr—14 Shubat]. The caller read the following statement:

The Organization of the Free People—14 February states the following facts to the Christian and Lebanese public in general:

1. The lies that the officer of B'abda and not of al-Yarzah is fabricating will not deceive anyone. His attack on the national, spiritual, and secular leaders and on the audio and video media and the media of the Lebanese factions is a serious precedent.

2. His assumption of power and his employment of the means of intimidation and enticement are impermissible in any country.

3. Therefore, the organization declares that it will use the force of arms to crush all of officer Michel 'Awn's attempts. We will counter terroism with terrorism until he leaves power and the Lebanese people determine their own fate.

It is worth noting that 14 February is the date on which the army launched an attack on the "Lebanese Forces" on orders from General 'Awn last year.

Soviet Envoy on al-Ta'if Accord, Syrian Help

NC3012184089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi received Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotush in Ablah today. After the meeting, Kolotusha stressed that in the end, the al-Ta'if accord will be implemented. Because the the al-Ta'if agreement is indivisble, amending it is out of the question. Insistence upon changing one clause might lead to a similar insistence on changing other clauses, and this not only will return the situation to what it was before, but will make things even worse, he added.

Kolotush expressed his belief that the international situation works in favor of the legitimacy as well as the al-Ta'if accord. He noted that in the end the Lebanese legitimate government will have the right to make a decision requesting Syria's assistance to extend the state's sovereignty, should it find it appropriate to do so.

Al-Hirawi, Al-Asad To Hold Summit Meeting

NC0101114090 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi will move to Beirut [from Ablah] in the next few days. He is scheduled to receive the members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Lebanon on 6 January.

Citing sources described as reliable, press sources say that contacts are under way to convene a summit meeting between President al-Hirawi and his Syrian counterpart Hafiz al-Asad. The sources indicate that this meeting will not be the first between the two presidents because they met in Damascus 2 weeks ago. The sources say that the meeting this time will be made public.

The sources describe the atmosphere during the first meeting between Presidents al-Hirawi and al-Asad as positive. The sources expect the coming summit to be held before President al-Hirawi moves to Beirut.

Meanwhile, the sources disclose that President al-Hirawi has received two messages, one from the Soviet Union and the other from the United States, in response to messages he had sent to U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. The sources describe the Soviet response to al-Hirawi's message as being a precocious Moscow stand on the Lebanese crisis with regard to supporting every decision the legitimate authority makes, including the possibility of seeking Syria's help to remedy the anomalous situation in the eastern area represented by Michel 'Awn's rebellion against the legitimate authority.

Regarding the U.S. response, the sources say that it is tantamount to a question as to whether the steps and measures taken so far constitute the end of the road in the confrontation with 'Awn.

'Awn Responds to Envoy's Remarks on Syrian Army

NC0201190090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' and Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn have been meeting in B'abda Palace since 1800 today.

Our colleague Michel al-Kik has provided us with these details:

[Begin recording] [al-Kik] Prime Minister Gen Michel 'Awn met with Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' in B'abda Palace at 1800 today. Dr Ja'ja' was accompanied by Attorney George 'Udwan, leader of the al-Tanzim Party. The meeting is still continuing.

Gen 'Awn earlier met with several delegations from al-Matn, Kasrawan, Jubayl, al-Shuf, and other areas. The delegations assembled in the outer grounds of the palace.

Gen 'Awn and Dr Ja'ja' greeted the delegations. Addressing the demonstrators, Gen 'Awn referred to claims that had been made about his intending to demolish Beirut. He stated that those who said those things did not understand that the choice was between liberty and demolition. He added: We chose liberty and accepted demolition.

Responding to those who advocate the use of the Syrian Army to impose the al-Ta'if agreement, Gen 'Awn said, in an allusion to Soviet Ambassador Kolotusha's recent stand:

['Awn] As for those who advocate the use of the Syrian Army to impose al-Ta'if (?security), [crowd shouts] they would have done that had they been able. They could not, however, do it. I point to the ambassador of a superpower who, a few days ago, said that the al-Ta'if agreement must be fully implemented and that it was possible to use the Syrian Army. [crowd shouts] To this ambassador I say: In case he has gone blind or deaf, let him remember that we are not in the era of Stalin or Andropov but in the era of Gorbachev. [crowd shouts] If he does not understand his country's new message, let him leave Lebanon and let another be sent in his stead. This would be better. [applause] We have become weary of this base insolence. We provided them with an atmosphere of freedom and they became unreasonably insolent.

[al-Kik] Earlier in the evening Gen 'Awn met with a delegation from northern Lebanon. He announced to the delegation that it has been decided to declare 13 January a day of solidarity with the north. A strike will be staged in solidarity with the north. He urged people in the north to boycott the Syrians and stay home on that day.

Before I end this report, I wish to note that the meeting with Dr Ja'ja' is still continuing. I have been speaking to you from B'abda Palace. [end recording]

Interview Conducted With Al-Huss, Al-Safir

NC0101075790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] In an interview with the newspaper AL-SAFIR published today, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss emphasized that 1989 marked the end of a decade of suffering and that 1990 marks the beginning of a decade of breakthroughs. He said: Time will be the enemy of unity if we sit idly by and do nothing. Measures cannot be achieved simply by pressing a button. We are making preparations to implement the al-Ta'if accord constitutionally. He said that a real attempt is being made to Cypriotize the Lebanese issue and that there is no difference between federation and partition because federation leads to terminating the homeland and partition is a microbe.

Prime Minister al-Huss said: Earnest work is being carried out with the tripartite committe to fill the gaps. He said that the Vatican's stand is not decisive. Prime Minister al-Huss believed that the phenomenon in the eastern area can be eliminated by speeches [as heard] and that 'Awn has used a cheap weapon to promote this phenomenon. He said that 'Awn's proposal to merge [damj] decentralization with centralization is essentially a tricky proposal.

Prime Minister al-Huss added that the government can be expanded and that harmony exists in it. He said: Should the government fail, it would be replaced by another.

Prime Minister al-Huss said that Egypt is one of Lebanon's most prominent allies in the cause of unity and that rapprochement between Egypt and Syria strengthens whats we are working for.

Further on Interview

NC0101100090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] In an interview with the newspaper Al-SAFIR published today, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss said that the Lebanese crisis has been tantamount to a clash of several failed plots targeted against Lebanon since the 1975 events. Had any one of these plots succeeded the crisis would have ended, even if contrary to the will of the Lebanese people.

Prime Minister al-Huss believed that the 1980's decade ended with the balance tipping in favor of the plot to Cypriotize Lebanon. He said that there is no difference between federation and partition because federation in Lebanon's case could mean nothing else but partition.

Regarding 'Awn's proposal to merge decentralization with centralization, Prime Minister al-Huss said that it is an essentially tricky proposal.

Prime Minister al-Huss emphasized that the al-Ta'if agreement hopes to achieve three goals which we are still counting on achieving. These goals are to move Lebanon from a state of armed conflict to a state of peace; revive the constitutional institutions; and entrench the country's unity which has been tossed about in the wind.

Prime Minister al-Huss said that the phenomenon in the eastern area has surfaced as a result of 'Awn's employment of a cheap weapon—namely, the weapon of sectarian incitement. Questioning 'Awn's plan, Prime Minister al-Huss said that 'Awn rejects the idea of unification unless liberation is achieved first. As long as there is no plan for liberation, it makes it necessary to ascertain the plan from the results of the movement 'Awn is leading. The plan is to Cypriotize and then partition [Lebanon].

Prime Minister al-Huss challenged the champions of the idea of partition to chart the the boundaries of the entity they are dreaming of establishing. He said: Should our government fail to unify Lebanon, another government would come to unite the country. He said that the present government is open for expansion.

Regarding the stand of the Vatican, Prime Minister al-Huss said: it is still undecided and what we have been informed through the tripartite committee is that some ambiguities have been clarified during the meeting between the Pope and the committee. Regarding the Syrian-Egyptian rapprochement, Prime Minister al-Huss said that it will promote Arab solidarity. He said that Egypt is one of Lebanon's most prominent allies in its cause and that the Egyptian-Syrian rapport will buttress what we are working for; namely to achieve Lebanon's unity.

Prime Minister al-Huss concluded by saying: The political game in Lebanon is without rules or controls; everything is allowed, even the taboos. He described the past years of the last year in a decade of sufferings and said that Lebanon is on the threshold of a new decade of unity and breakthroughs.

'Intensified' Moves by Israeli Forces, Militias

NC3012133189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] Reports received from the occupied areas indicate that the Israeli occupation forces have intensified their military movements in the past few hours along their deployment lines in western al-Biqa'. The reports add that these forces have initiated mechanized patrols, set up mobile roadblocks, searched vehicles, checked the identities of passengers, and carried out field interrogations before releasing some of the passengers.

The reports also say that elements of the agent militias in the advance positions on the western al-Biqa' line have deployed their vehicles behind ramparts and earth walls and are on general alert.

Our correspondent in the south has reported that the agent militias fired dozens of flares over the areas facing their positions. Other militias have also been deployed on hills to observe the liberated areas. These military moves are taking place amid a state of fear among the agents and the occupation forces of possible military operations against their positions by resistance fighters.

Israeli, Lahd Militia Activities Reported

NC0201120390 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] Our reporter in the eastern sector of south Lebanon has reported that occupation forces and Agent Lahd's militiamen stormed and searched a number of villages in the al-'Urqub area this morning. Our reporter indicated that a joint force of 50 Israeli soldiers and Lahd militiamen and four half-tracked vehicles this morning entered the Su al-Khan triangle, where a roadblock manned by the Norwegian contingent is located, and entered the towns of (al-Kharbis) and Kafr Shuba, cut roads, and closed the approaches to them on all sides. They then stormed and searched approximately 60 houses and arrested, interrogated, and tortured six citizens.

Our reporter also said that Agent Lahd's militia released three citizens who had been detained for 20 days in al-Khiyan prison, including Bilal al-Murr and the wife of Zakariya Abu-Salih.

Our reporter also said that an agents' motorized force of 10 half-tracked vehicles and 60 personnel crossed the occupied border strip via the Zummarayya gate and advanced to a distance of 4 km to Mimis sector. The force carried out a random combing campaign. The agent force withdrew to the border strip 2 hours later.

In another development, an explosive device went off near the Burj Hammud playground in the eastern area at approximately 1100 today, causing only property damage.

Shells Fired in Southern al-Matn

NC0201071890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] Five shells were fired in the vicinity of B'abda, Bsus, al-Jumhur, and Wadi Shahrur in southern al-Matn last night. Three-year-old Walid Emile Sa'adah was wounded and taken to St Therese Hospital.

Meanwhile, intermittent gunfire took place on the capital's combat lines thoughout last night, especially on the Ra's al-Nab', Primo, and al-Barjawi lines.

Israeli, Lahd Forces Attack Areas in South

NC0301100990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] According to security sources in the south, the Israeli occupation artillery in Marj 'Uyun and Kawkaba shelled positions held by Amal Movement and Hizballah in Iqlim al-Tuffah on Monday-Tuesday night. The sources said 90 shells were fired on these positions.

Occupation forces positioned in Kawkaba shelled the ridges of Jabal al-Dahr in the eastern sector in the south. A position held by Agent Antoine Lahd's militiamen in Zummarayya also opened machinegun fire on Mimis sector and al-Dabaghi forest.

According to information from Hasbayya, an Israeli force comprising three Merkava tanks moved to the confrontation line and took up positions in Tall Zaghlah.

Reports from Marj 'Uyun say a force of nine armored cars has crossed al-Mtullah gate and moved toward al-'Ayshiyah. Reports from al-'Urqub say a joint Israeli-Lahd force has attacked the town of Kafr Shuba, detained citizen Isma'il al-Qadiri, and took him to al-Khiyam prison.

More on Israeli Activities in South

NC0301131790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] According to reports from the south, eight Israeli armored vehicles and a 20-member infantry force set out from the settlement of Metulla and took the al-Mtullah-(Sahl al-Daddarah) road. The force combed the road linking the al-Khiyam-Marj 'Uyun triangle with the Zummarayya crossing before allowing cars to travel on this road.

At approximately 0900 today, three Merkava tanks advanced to a position held by the agent militia in Tallat Kawkaba that overlooks the liberated areas of Rashayya and western al-Biqa'.

At approximately 1015, two Israeli helicopters flew over the confrontation line in the eastern sector in the south, especially over the towns of Shab'a, Hasbayya, and Shwayya.

Our reporter in the occupied town of Shab'a reported that a 15-member infantry force from the enemy army carried out a large-scale combing operation in the groves of Shab'a, Nab' 'Ayn al-Jawz, and (Junum) from 0600 to 1030 today. The force then withdrew in the direction of Tallat al-Saddanah.

Meanwhile, Israeli helicopters flew over the villages in al-'Urqub area for 30 minutes at dawn today, dropping scores of flares.

Security sources in Hasbayya have reported that 'Alam-al-Din Badawi, security official in Agent Lahd's militia in the eastern sector, was subjected to an assassination attempt last week and that the attempt was followed by a storming and arrest campaign that involved a number of youths.

General Qassis Visits Al-Hirawi, Lahhud

NC2912132689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] A statement was issued in Ablah today saying that on 28 December, Staff Brigadier General Simon Qassis [of the Lebanese Army] visited President Ilyas al-Hirawi and [Army Commander] General Emile Lahhud and placed himself at the disposal of the legitimate authority and command.

'Hostile Force' Attacks Army Officer's Home

NC0301114190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] The Army command's guidance directorate has issued the following statement:

On Tuesday night and early Wednesday night, a hostile force infiltrated Bayt Miri. The force, which came from Qirtadah, attacked the home of Lieutenant Colonel 'Adil Sasin, commander of the military police, to create confusion in the [Christian-controlled] liberated area. The aim of the operation was to create the impression the home of a senior Army officer was attacked by a force operating within the liberated areas.

Army elements confronted the attackers and prevented them from attaining their goals and injuring some of them, indicated by traces of blood found near the attacked home. Warrant Officer Samir Hanna, Corporal George Tu'mah, Private Tanius Sasin, and Private Jalil Shahin, all of whom were on guard duty at Lt Col Sasin's home, were killed in the attack. The body of Salibah Yusuf was found just outside the village.

'Skirmishes' Reported on Beirut Lines

NC0201121690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] Skirmishes took place on the battle lines of Ra's al- Nab' and Primo [in Beirut] before noon today. Machineguns were used in the clashes.

Tawhid Leader Urges End to Clashes in Beirut

LD2912162989 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] Beirut, Dec. 29, IRNA—Leader of Lebanon's Islamic Towheed Movement Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban expressed concern over current clashes between Amal and Hizbollah forces and urged them to unite against the Zionist regime.

Shaykh Sha'ban delivering the Friday prayers sermons at Muhammad al-Amin (SAW) mosque in Tripoli said the bloodshed and fighting between the two Muslim groups should be ended immediately and 'at any price'. The two groups, he stressed, must unitedly fight against Israel and Lebanon's political Maronite.

Adverting to Washington's invasion of Panama and its efforts to install a puppet regime in that country, Shaykh Sha'ban described the U.S. intervention as one of the most dangerous events in the world and an example of U.S. mischievous acts. He told the worshippers that the danger is heightened by 'Washington's illegitimate veto right.'

Elsewhere in his sermons, the Lebanese leader referred to new developments in Damascus-Cairo relations and expressed hope the resumption of ties would save Egypt from the 'vortex of servility instead of drawing Syria into it.'

Al-Hirawi Delivers New Years Address to Citizens

NC3012203789 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1830 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Address by President Ilyas al-Hirawi to the Lebanese people on the occasion of the new year—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] My sons, there is no meaning for slogans in a homeland that lacks bread and dignity. There is no meaning for oneupmanship in a homeland threatened by disintegration and fragmentation. There is no meaning for maneuvering in a homeland that is almost on the verge of losing all its sons. Has the Lebanese problem decreased to the level of dividing up the pieces? Has the Lebanese cause narrowed to the extent of dividing up the land at the expense of the homeland, tradition, and the future? Let us take stock, think of the homeland and nothing less, think of Lebanon and not of other countries.

I have come to defend you and Lebanon. I have come to protect what is yours and guard your rights. I have come to restore the strong and capable state, the state of law and values, of efficiency and initiative, of construction and development, a state that is capable of restoring to the citizen his confidence (?and ending the state) of chaos and fragmentation. My primary aim is Lebanon's salvation. Salvation requires the collective will of all the Lebanese. Lebanon's fate is decided by all of its sons. The road to the solutions goes through the state. It is the protector of all the Lebanese and no one can replace it. Experiences and events have shown that no single group can monopolize Lebanon and that no single group can be independent of Lebanon. We protect sovereignty and public freedoms with the strong and independent state and we defend national dignity and repulse any violation of law and order with an army from all of Lebanon, for all of Lebanon, and in all of Lebanon. [passage omitted]

My hand is extended to each one of you so that we can rectify the mistakes of the past, tackle today's problems, and together formulate the road to the future. I will not tolerate strife between communities. I will not tolerate strife between generations. I will not tolerate strife between areas. Values will build Lebanon. What is required is to restore life to Lebanon and to restore to life its Lebanese values. For whom do we build if not for our sons? Let us unite all the efforts for the sake of Lebanon. Everything we have has to be rebuilt: man, society, schools, streets, factories, agriculture, management. Let us rebuild all we can. My presidency will end with the achievement of my program, namely a house for every citizen, God willing. [passage omitted]

O Lebanese, in its spirit and basis, the al-Ta'if agreement has come to put an end to the cycle of violence and death. It has come to restore purity to Christian-Muslim coexistence. It has come to prove that there are no differences among the Lebanese. It has come to revive the legitimate authority and its institutions because Lebanon cannot be governed outside the framework of the legitimate authority. It has come to achieve the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese weapons from Lebanon and to impose the Lebanese state's authority on all the sacred national soil. Why do we waste every opportunity to end the crisis and make it another crisis? Will Lebanon remain under the yoke of occupation in the south and the inferno of fragmentation internally? Will Lebanon continue to suffer from the hegemony of illegal weapons? Will the Lebanese passport remain subject to an unjust prejudice? Will the state remain paralyzed and lax so that a person who has no dealings with official departments is congratulated? [passage omitted]

O Lebanese, the process of salvation, unity, and peace has started. Be with Lebanon and it will be with you. Long live Lebanon.

Phalangists' Dib on Resistance Day Festivities

NC2512152089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Text] Roger Dib, secretary general of the Phalangist Party, has underscored the need to set aside differences in East Beirut and maintain a diversity of opinion in an atmosphere of freedom, democracy, and trust in order to reach a political mechanism that would end the current crisis in the country.

Speaking at an expanded meeting of the Political Bureau, the Consultative Council, and the Central Council, Dib called on Phalangist Party members to attend tomorrow's resistance day celebrations to assert their presence and their right to express their opinions in the free areas, to renew their commitment to the homeland's unity and pluralism and their rejection of all forms of partition, to express their firm beliefs, and to authorize their prudent leaders to implement their wishes.

Phalangists' Matar Speeks

NC2612170589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Excerpts] The eastern areas today celebrated resistance day with a large rally which filled the courtyards of the Lebanese Forces headquarters and the surrounding neighborhood. The occasion turned into a true festival attended by hundreds of thousands of people. According to a Radio Monte Carlo estimate, half a million people attended the rally. An atmosphere of joy engulfed the entire estern area and the streets were packed with popular marches, convoys of cars, and hundreds of thousands of pedestrians heading for Lebanese Forces headquarters. [passage omitted]

Attorney Salah Matar, member of the Phalangist Party Political Bureau, spoke on behalf of the party, which he said reflects Lebanon's firm democratic traditions, supremacy of law, respect for human rights and liberties in the homeland of freedom, and unity of ranks. He said this unity of ranks is a red line and any crossing of the line is a mortal sin. It is the unity of everyone for the sake of everyone. It must not be monopolized by any party and it should not exclude anyone. Here is part of Matar's speech:

[Begin Matar recording] Our firm and unchanging decision is one of unity against partition and against the loss of our identity and land. It is one of full sovereignty against those who reject full sovereignty. It is a decision of heroism in time of peace and time of war. It is one of alertness at the Lebanese, Arab, and international levels to the conspiracy that seeks the isolation and division of Lebanon. It is one of intellectual and constitutional revolution, rather than a revolution of violence and blood, so that institutions can be built on the basis of unified pluralism, justice, and equality. [end recording]

Attorney Matar added that the Phalangist Party calls on everyone on this occasion to consolidate the unity of ranks to reach salvation, because the march of salvation needs everyone's active participation. He said the Phalangists' feelings today are of gratitude to its founder, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil; to martyr President Bashir al-Jumayyil, the first commander of the Lebanese Forces; and to Dr Samir Ja'ja', who is devoting himself to the Lebanese resistance cause. He paid tribute to Phalangist Party leader Dr George Sa'adah, who is exerting intensive efforts in several countries for the sake of Lebanon's salvation.

'Arafat Discloses Offers To Rule Jordan, Lebanon

NC3012125389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] In an interview with the London-based AL-HAYAH paper, Yasir 'Arafat said that he turned down an offer to rule Jordan made by King Husayn in 1970 and that he rejected another offer to rule part of south Lebanon. 'Arafat said: The Jordanian authority made us an offer in June 1970. King Husayn also proposed that we form a government [in Jordan] but we turned this down. He added that Kamal Nasir, one of his aides, told King Husayn that we do not seek power and that it has never been my dream to rule an Arab country but to reach Jordan as a soldier. 'Arafat added that Lebanese leaders, whose names he did not disclose, proposed that he set up a canton in south Lebanon and rule it, but he turned down this offer as well, as he put it.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Demoralized by Communism's 'Collapse'

BK0101134990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1256 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 1 (AFP)—The Afghan resistance on Monday reiterated its prediction that President Najibullah would fall and said the Kabul government leader was "demoralized" by reforms in Eastern Europe.

In a reaction to Mr. Najibullah's call Sunday to revamp the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), a mujahidin spokesman called the Soviet-backed president a "criminal who does not have the support of the people and is demoralized by the collapse of communism."

Referring to Mr. Najibullah's call to change the name of the Marxist ruling party, the Pakistan-based mujahidin spokesman, 'Abdul Rahim, said that "he can change the name of the party, but everybody knows he has been for years the chief of KHAD," the secret police. "Like Ceausescu, he fires missiles on his own people," said the spokesman for the seven-party Sunni resistance alliance, referring to deposed Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, who was executed on Christmas day.

"He is a puppet... the result of a Soviet invasion," Mr. Rahim said, predicting that Mr. Najibullah would soon fall. "If he stays in power, with Moscow's blessing, this intervention for us will continue," he said.

Soviet forces completed their withdrawal from Afghanistan on February 15, 1989, after a nearly decade-long occupation that began with Moscow's December 27, 1979 invasion of the country.

Despite the Soviet pullout, the civil war has ground on between the various resistance groups and the Moscow-backed Kabul government.

Apparently disturbed by the wave of reform sweeping the Soviet bloc in recent months, Mr. Najibullah called Sunday in Kabul for the formation of a "national front" uniting all the country's left-wing parties and groups. He was speaking on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the ruling party's creation.

Keshtmand Officially Opens Kabul-Bagram Road

LD3012182589 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Council of Ministers Executive Committee of the Republic of Afghanistan, took part this afternoon in a meeting held by workers, personnel, and officials of construction companies to mark the conclusion of construction work on the new Kabul-Bagram road.

The meeting was also attended by Niaz Muhammad Mohmand, member of the Politburo and secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee; Daud Razmyar, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Mahmud Barialay, first deputy prime minister; Muhammad Hakim, deputy prime minister; a number of ministers; the mayor of Kabul; the governor of Kabul; and a number of officials from various departments and organizations. [passage omitted]

According to another report, at the end of the meeting Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, together with the participants of the meeting, went to the new Kabul-Bagram road and officially opened the road on the occasion of the 25th founding anniversary of the PDPA by unveiling a memorial plaque.

Mujahidin Destroy 3 Aircraft at Bagram Air Base

BK3112153289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin reportedly attacked the Bagram Air Base with rockets and mortars, destroying three aircraft standing at the base and killing at least 30 members of the militia. According to the MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN, the airport terminal and three adjacent buildings were also destroyed in the attack.

India

Reports on Granting Asylum to Noriega Refuted

BK0201162290 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] In New Delhi, an External Affairs Ministry spokesman contradicted American press reports that India is one of the three countries prepared to offer asylum to General Noriega. The spokesman gave the clarification when newsmen drew his attention to the American press reports in this regard.

Prime Minister Greets New Romanian President

BK0201162690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has felicitated the new president of Romania, Mr Ion Iliescu. In a message, the prime minister said Indians have watched with sympathy and understanding the extraordinary sacrifice and courage displayed by the Romanian people in reasserting their democratic right. India extends its support and good wishes to the people of Romania. The prime minister expressed confidence that the ties of friendship, cooperation, and understanding between India and Romania will be strengthened and expanded in future.

Singh Speaks on Assam, Kashmir, Punjab Issues

BK0301091890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh says he favors resolving the foreign nationals issue in Assam as per the provisions of the Assam accord. Addressing a crowded news conference in Guwahati this morning, Mr Singh reiterated the government's commitment to implement the Assam accord in both letter and spirit. He said clauses on which action has already been initiated will be fully implemented expediently. On the foreign national question, Mr V.P. Singh said no country can go on absorbing foreigners. Those who have settled for long should also not be harassed. He said illegal infiltration into the country would not be allowed and if necessary the matter will be discussed with the neigboring country.

Declaring that top priority will be given to the development of northeastern region, the prime minister said a committee of ministers will be constituted at the center to go into the problems as well the development of states in the region. He said the northeastern council will be strengthened and steps will be taken to revitalize it.

Asked about his government's attitude to terrorist activities in the northeastern region, Mr V.P. Singh said apart from strengthening the administrative machinery, youth of the region will have to be motivated to join the mainstream to help solve problems in the region.

Referring to the flood havoc the state is facing every year, the prime minister announced that the Brahmaputra board will be reactivated together with strengthening the flood research institute at Guwahati to carry out studies on ways and means to control Brahmaputra.

On Jammu and Kashmir, the prime minister ruled out the dismissal of the present state government. He said the state administration has to be strengthened and the problems of the people should be attended to. Mr V.P. Singh also declared that Kashmir is an integral part of the country and there will be no compromise on the country's security and integrity.

On Punjab, the prime minister said the problem cannot be solved overnight and positive measures have already been initiated. He said what is needed is political initiatives and confidence building steps. He said he would again visit Punjab.

The prime minister has since left Guwahati for Bhagalpur.

Spokesman on Tibet, PRC, Nepal, Sri Lanka

BK0201154090 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1447 GMT 2 Jan 90

["Official Spokesman's Statement on China, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldives"]

[Text] In reply to question about government's policy on Tibet vis-a-vis [Indian Railways Minister] George Fernandes' statements, the spokesman said that PM [prime minister] has already said in parliament very clearly that there is no change in our stand on Tibet. We believe Tibet is an autonomous region of China. PM has publicly stated that in parliament. We have always regarded the Dalai Lama as a respected spiritual leader and we have always expressed and continue to express our wish that dialogue between his holiness and Tibetan community on one hand and Chinese authorities on other is successful.

Question: Is there any protest from Chinese side on statement made by Mr George Fernandes?

Spokesman: As far as I know, there is no protest from the Chinese side.

In reply to question about visit of Nepalese foreign minister to India, the spokesman said that he is coming here on the 2nd January and will be here on 3rd and 4th January. Shri S.K. Upadhyaya is accompanied by foreign secretary of Nepal, Shri Narendra Bikram Shah. He will meet EAM [external affairs minister] on 3rd [January] morning. It is for a friendly and a comprehensive dialogue aimed at early resolution of all outstanding issues between two countries. He will have two rounds of talks with EAM.

Question: Is there any possibility of the king of Nepal meeting the Indian prime minister in the near future?

Spokesman: There is nothing on the agenda at the moment.

Question: Will Mr Upadhyaya meet the PM?

Spokesman: It is likely that he will meet PM.

In reply to question whether Mr Ranjan Wijeratne was visiting India, spokesman said that he will be coming to India during this week. He is doing so at the request of the Sri Lankan Government. They asked us whether he could come and we said that friends are welcome to come. There is no fixed agenda. The dates of the visit have not yet been fixed, but most likely his arrival will be on the (?5th) January.

Question: Will there be any LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] representative in Delhi during Mr Wijeratne's visit?

[No response as received]

Question: There are reports that March 31st deadline for withdrawal of IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] would be advanced. What are your comments?

Spokesman: As EAM has said in parliament, "Keeping the logistical and other factors in mind, it should be possible to complete de-induction by the end of March, 1990". We are willing to discuss all matters with them concerning bilateral relations including IPKF de-induction.

In reply to question about foreign secretary's visit to Maldives, spokesman said that Maldives foreign secretary has been here several times. He had invited our foreign secretary to visit Maldives. Our foreign secretary has gone there for talks with Maldivian foreign secretary. He is also having discussions there preparatory to joint commission meeting [which] will be led by EAM. Foreign secretary is expected to come back today.

Protest Lodged on Caning of Workers in Singapore

BK3012124589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] India has strongly protested to Singapore against the caning of three Indian nationals on last Tuesday [26 December] following court convictions for their overstay. The Singapore high commissioner was called to the External Affairs Ministry yesterday to express India's deep regret over this kind of punishment.

Singapore Sikhs' Support for Terrorists Noted

BK0101094090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] According to a Singapore Government statement, a small group of Sikhs in that country has been providing funds and logistic support for Sikh terrorists in India and Britain. ASSOCIATED PRESS, quoting the statement, reports that the group usually raises funds discreetly through personal approaches and, on several occasions, through friendly appeals at congregations. The report further says that the Singapore Government has, however, warned those connected with the group, reminding them that events in India do not concern the people of Singapore.

'Action Plan' To Fulfill Election Promises

BK0101161890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] The government has announced an action plan for fixing the remunerative prices for agricultural produce, measures to curb wasteful expenditure and elitist consumption. The four-page plan also provides the right to work and the right to information as fundamental rights. The National Front government's action plan for a time-bound implementation of its pre-election promises was released in New Delhi today. Individual ministries earlier submitted their plans of action which were considered and approved by the Union Cabinet at its meeting on Saturday last.

The government will come out with a long-term fiscal policy during the budget session of parliament and start investing at least 50 percent of resources in agriculture and rural sector from the next annual plan. Among the other important bills to be brought during the budget session include the constitutional amendment bill to make right to work a fundamental right. Another measure will be a comprehensive legislation on panchayati raj [village-level administrative system] to be framed after discussion with the chief ministers. A detailed bill on electoral reforms and a constitutional amendment bill to guarantee the right to information will also be introduced.

The action plan envisages that a scheme for debt relief up to 10,000 rupees to small, marginal, and landless farmers and artisans will be finalized during the budget session. Changes have been announced in the method of computing support prices for farmers with provision to take care of inflation. The Agriculture Ministry will appoint an expert committee to implement the changes and recommend the support pricing system for the next kharif [autumn crop] season. A meeting of the chief ministers will be held in April to finalize a program to implement land reforms.

Among the other economic measures in the action plan is a 3-year import-export policy to push up exports in a big way and simplify procedures. This will be announced on the 1st of April.

To finalize the reconstitution of the National Integration Council, a meeting of chief ministers will be held this month itself.

The Indian post office and the Indian telegraph acts are to be amended during the same session to ensure citizens the right to privacy.

The recommendations of the Mandal Commission will be considered by a Cabinet committee to be set up this month.

A new industrial relations bill will be brought forward during the monsoon session after consultation at all levels.

Briefing newsmen, an official spokesman said various ministries will now formulate detailed steps to implement the action, the progress of which will be closely monitored.

Iran

Velayati Defends Ceausescu Invitation to Majles

LD0201120890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] In today's open session of the Majles, [Foreign Minister] Mr Velayati replied to the question of 84 Majles deputies in connection with the trip of the Romanian president to Iran. First one of the questioners, Mr Musavi-Lari, posed his question in that regard.

[Begin recording] [Musavi-Lari] Esteemed speaker of the Majles. In view of Articles 88 and 137 of the Constitution, and Articles 150 and 151 of the Majles internal regulations, it is necessary that the esteemed minister of foreign affairs attend the open session of the Majles and reply to the following questions:

1. Why was there a failure to present a correct analysis of Romania's changes and developments, thereby resulting

in the recent trip of the defunct president of that country to the Islamic Republic of Iran.
2. What was the reason for the trip of Mr Ceausescu, the defunct president of Romania, to the Islamic Republic of Iran, lasting from 18 to 20 December 1989?

[Velayati] In the two questions posed, two issues have been assumed that must be looked at. One is that we did not provide the country's officials, in particular the esteemed president, with necessary information about predicting the events, and why did we not we do that. This is not true; that is, such an assumption is not correct, as we did give the necessary information on the basis of what we predicted and what could be predicted. We sat and talked to the esteemed president, and our recommendation was that the trip should take place, and we had an understanding with him. However, the second assumption is that on the basis of available information could the trip be beneficial or not? Or could the benefits of the trip have been questionable, on the basis of the given information. This assumption, also, is not correct in our opinion; that is, on the basis of the information we had and the ongoing process, we considered there were some advantages and some disadvantages for that trip. We compared the advantages with disadvantages and found that the advantages and benefits outweighed the disadvantages. Therefore, we decided that the trip should take place. [end recording]

Mr Velayati continued by saying: As to why the trip went ahead: Last year, following an invitation from the Romanian president for the then Iranian president, that is, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, he [Khamene'i] paid a visit to Romania. At a time when we were under the height of pressure on the international stage, the issue of the apostate Salman Rushdie had been raised and the fatwa of his eminence the imam [Khomeyni] against the blasphemous book [was issued], and Western countries had withdrawn their ambassadors and were trying to impose isolation on Iran—at the height of that affair the Foreign Ministry arranged that trip for him, and despite the pressure existing in the world, he was well received in Romania. On the basis of etiquette, at the end on any trip in the world the host is invited by the guest to pay a return visit. Mr Khamene'i extended that invitation and they [the Romanians] later followed up that invitation. When Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani became the president, he sent his adviser so that the trip was arranged and the date set.

As to the point that we did not predict that they would be overthrown, that is not correct: We assessed the pros and cons; on the basis of the assessment, we judged the advantages as outweighing the disadvantages and the trip took place. As to the fact that he was overthrown on his return, that had not been predicted—in the form which it took; that is, a bloody overthrow and military clashes—either by himself, by the people around him, by others, or by anyone else.

Velayati continued by referring to the Romanian vice-president's trip to Ankara, saying: After Ceausescu's return from the trip, the situation was still such that he took a stance in favor of him. [sentence as heard]

Then the questioner, in the course of a speech, rejected the foreign minister's remarks, and, referring to the words of his eminence the imam, said: In view of the imam's remarks about the death of Marxism, why did that trip take place? And second, if the analyses of the Foreign Ministry were correct, why was the ambassador [to Romania] replaced?

In reply, Mr Velayati said: The reason why we replaced the ambassador was because of his remarks after Ceausescu's trip; otherwise, if he had not made those remarks, the ambassador would still be in his place. After the trip took place, he said things in various places which were not befitting to a diplomat. As to what was said about the defeat of Marxism, it is the wish of all of us that all atheistic schools [of thought] should be destroyed. However, if we have ties with some people, it does not mean that we are affirming the legitimacy of that system. In the early days of Islam, too, Muslims and non-Muslims had ties, ties which did not amount to an approval of the political system of those [non-Muslim] governments. Now, too, we have ties with most countries and we do not affirm their legitimacy in any way.

He added: We set the interests of Islam and the Islamic Republic over anything else. And the reason I said that the pros outweighed the cons is that we had a contract with Romania in connection with vital goods which were and are very important for the defense of the country. Some of that contract had been fulfilled and some of it had not yet been fulfilled, and if we had delayed the trip and had prevented Ceausescu's visit, we considered it possible that this would not take place [the contract would not be fulfilled] and that would have been a fundamental blow to the interests of the Islamic Republic in connection with defense matters.

Second, Romania is a member of the [UN] Security Council from 1 January of the current year and it is very important for us, with regard to Security Council Resolution 598, that we should have close ties with members of that council so that, in our talks with Iraq, we can use the Security Council in the way which our national interests dictate.

Third, regarding the contracts which were signed here with the late head of Romania: After his arrest and death, the new government told us that the contracts remain in force. Thus, if there is anxiety, you can see that things did not occur in such a way that contracts were only dependent on a particular person.

Velayati continued by saying that the existence of possibilities in connection with changes of Marxist governments in the future cannot be a criterion for our foreign policy. He said: Ties with countries such as China and N. Korea are necessary on the basis of our national interests.

Fails To Convince Majles

LD0201141290 Tehran IRNA in English 1324 GMT 2 Jan 90

["Velayati Fails To Convince Majles on Ceausescu Visit"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 2, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati attended the Majles Tuesday and responded to a question earlier raised by 84 parliamentarians as to reasons behind the untimely visit to Tehran of the toppled Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu.

'There were some advantages as well as some disadvantages regarding the visit and our conclusion was that it would be appropriate if takes place,' Velayati told the Majles.

Last week, 84 Majles deputies asked the foreign minister to attend the Majles to explain about his ministry's failure to present a correct analysis of the situation in Romania and about the timing of Ceausescu's visit to Tehran (Dec. 18-20).

On December 25, Veleyati gave some explanations to the Majles' Foreign Relations Committee which were not considered convincing.

Responding to a question accusing the Foreign Ministry of failing to predict the future of Romania, he replied 'The Foreign Ministry had necessary information about the situation in Romania and its future but Ceausescu's visit had its own advantages and disadvantages.'

'We had reached some agreements with Romania parts of which had not been implemented and if Ceausescu's visit had not taken place, a great loss would have been inflicted on the interests of the Islamic Republic,' Velayati stressed.

Asked why Iranian Ambassador to Romania Mohammad Jamshid Gowhari had been sacked, Velayati responded that he had been fired for making undiplomatic remarks and analyses that were below the dignity of a diplomat.

He dismissed as incorrect the idea that the Foreign Ministry had failed to anticipate Ceausescu's fall, saying 'this was completely predictable but what was impossible to predict was that he might be toppled so quickly and in such a bloody manner.'

The foreign minister reiterated that Tehran-Bucharest agreements would remain valid as announced by the National Salvation Front and that there was no threat to Iran's interests.

Velayati's answers to the questions were not considered convincing and were sent to a committee in charge of answering questions.

Mojahedin-e Khalq: IRGC Sent to Romania

LD0201134390 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1300 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] An Iranian opposition organization is claiming that at the personal command of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani a significant group of Islamic Revolution Guards was sent before Christmas to Romania to rescue the Ceausescu regime. According to the Baghdad-based group calling itself the People's Mojahedin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization], Ceausescu made an agreement about this in person in Tehran with the Iranian president on the evening of 19 December, by which time there were already clashes at Timisoara.

The organization, in the communique it has sent to the Hungarian news agency, to reinforce the authenticity of the news, mentions several guards who were sent to Romania by name.

The news has also been confirmed by the French news agency AFP, after its Baghdad correspondent received from the Mojahedin a statement of a similar content.

Editorial Welcomes Romanian Nation's 'Victory'

NC3112100089 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 24 Dec 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Iran Welcomes Romanian People's Move for Democracy"]

[Text] The sweeping changes making the rounds of the Eastern Europe finally caught Romania by storm and most observers by surprise!

The "storm" has apparently gained in momentum when it reached Romania, as saddening reports of violence and bloodshed are pouring out of the once-thought stable country. In most East European nations the change of power and political structures was brought about in a rather peaceful transition. But the Security Forces faithful to the deposed president Nicolae Ceausescu have opened fire on their own people in a ruthless manner. This is indeed regrettable.

But why indeed the changes had to take such a tough turn in this otherwise peaceful nation? The answer must lie in the fact that Ceausescu's system had failed in providing democratic and legal platforms to its people to come in the open with their ideas and criticisms. As a result the pent-up frustrations, held back for some long 24 years, were unleashed in such force that left no room for rapprochement and a compromise. The absence of a proper channel of dialogue with the people has hurt the regime most.

But a thorny question should be hurled at the Iranian Foreign Ministry in view of the events unravelling events in Romania.

Ceausescu took an official visit of Tehran last week. The nagging question is why should he be received at our capital while a whole nation has risen up to his rule?

The Foreign Ministry might say that the invitation of Ceausescu dates back to a year ago, long before the forceful ongoing popular movement against him found expression in the streets.

But for a fact the Iranian ambassador to Bucharest was responsible for supplying the Iranian leadership and his own ministry with a truthful and realistic assessment of the situation in the host country.

If a true account of the socio-political situation in Romania had been presented to the Iranian policy makers they would have most certainly called off the invitation in this very sensitve juncture in time for the Romanian nation.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamene'i however withdrew from meeting the then president Ceausescu in Tehran. This is in itself indicative of Iran's emphasis on certain principles and the popularity of the visiting heads of state. Yet, the occurence of the official visit in this very sensitive time could harm the future of the two nations' relations.

The Iranian nation however welcomes the decision of the Romanian people and their movement for democracy. As long as the people are actively involved in shaping up their political fate and the kind of regime they like to see at the helm, they will ahve the Iranians' support.

Besides, how can the Iranian nation which made one of the most vigorous revolutions against an armed-to-the-teeth dictator not share the sentiments of the Romanian people standing up to an autocratic rule?

The Romanian nation's victory is a triumph for all nations.

Meanwhile the Iranian foreign policy makers should make every possible effort to inform the Romanian people of the true sentiments and sympathy of our people and government.

Editorial on West's 'Lies' Over Ceausescu Visit

NC3112101489 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 25 Dec 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Western Propaganda Bound To Fail on Ceausescu Iran Visit"]

[Text] Western media, which never miss any chances or occasions for painting a wrong picture of the Islamic Republic of Iran to confusing the world public opinion about this Islamic country, have this time taken up the issue of troubles in Romania to attack Iran.

A media-made uproar is now set in motion after the visit of the then Romanian head of state Nicolae Ceausescu to the Iranian capital last week. The visit took place in response to an invitation extended to him almost a year ago in last February.

It has to be admitted that if the Foreign Ministry officials and especially the Iranian Embassy in Bucharest had used more political sense and judgement they could have dug out the revolutionary storm hidden among the oppressed Romanian people against their regime.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry failed to pinpoint the extent of the revolutionary fervor among the Romanian people. But apparently the highest echelon of the Iranian Leadership, especially Leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i rightfully predicted the end of Ceausescu and as such called off an audience with the Romanian guest during his Tehran visit.

In the meantime there was also debate in the Majles on Ceausescu's visit. Foreign Affairs Commission member Hojjat ol-Eslam Sadeq Khalkhali had actually severely criticized Ceausescu and urged him to resign, right when he was a guest in this country.

But the Western propaganda machinery ceaselessly went ahead with their anti-Iran fabications related to the Romanian crisis. For instance at the peak of the revolutionary activities in Romania the Western media charged that Ceausescu had taken gold, silver jewellery and some other costly things with him to Tehran.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, however, addressing university students in Tehran yesterday said that during Ceausescu's visit the Iranian officials repeatedly had urged him to bow to his people's demands for reforms.

Clarifying the stance of his ministry Velayati said that the deposed Romanian leader's visit had been made according to international diplomatic norms.

For a fact Ceausescu was given a cold reception in Tehran and such charges are nothing more than pure lies to smear the Iranian image. The debate in the Majles and the cancellation of audience with the leader of the Islamic Republic and above all, the nature of the Islamic Revolution are proof enough that neither Ceausescu nor the wealth of the Romanian nation can ever find room in the revolutionary Iran. The Western media propaganda is doomed to fail once more as it is based on the cheapest of lies.

TEHRAN TIMES Condemns U.S. Action in Panama

NC3112094889 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 23 Dec 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Once More U.S. Proves Means Justifies End"]

[Text] U.S. action in Panama once more proves that the imperialist powers can go to any lengths to keep their interests intact.

In a clear and calculated violation of international norms, the U.S. President George Bush has once again shown how debased U.S. political behavior can get by sending in thousands of troops to arrest the Panamanian President [as published] Manuel Antonio Noriega on charges that still need to be proved.

Action such as the U.S. has just perpetrated and can very well do to be the scenario of an adventure movie, or may be looked at by studens of history as equal to the exploits of a Genghis Khan (the infamous Mongol invader) or even that of self-willed and power hungry dictators like Mussolini or Hitler. But amazingly what is happening now is taking place in 1989 and the protagonist in this sordid drama is none other than a superpower which claims to be the guardian of human rights, democracy and idealistic behavior in as world evolving towards an ideal of human unity, dignity and equality for all. Yet all that the president of the U.S. is now ordering his political machine and his force to belie the fact that these are the actions of the president of a so-called civilized country. [sentence as published]

American forces now occupying Panama have offered a one million dollar reward for information on the whereabouts of President Noriega and that will lead to his arrest.

Only a few months ago, when apostate Salman Rushdie blasphemed Islam and hurt the feelings of a billion or more Moslems, a Fatwa [religious edict] was issued by the late Imam Khomeyni. The same West, especially the U.S. and Britain denounced the Fatwa in the name of democracy and freedom of expression and called it an uncivilized action. Where then lies the difference?

Some religious organizations in Iran put a one million dollar price upon the head of the apostate author. And the entire episode sparked controversy at the international level. U.S. and British leaders said it was illegal and against international norms. Then what about what the U.S. is doing today? Is it all justice and high piety?

What happens now? Rewards are being offered for offences that in our eyes are far less serious than the offence to the spiritual dignity of the entire body of Islam, a price is put on the head of a man against whom charges are still to be proved in a legal court of law. In the Wild West perhaps this happened to be so from what we see of them in the Western movies. But today how can such wild actions be justified at all according to standards that the leaders of the world assume to uphold? Ironically British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who again has a very high opinion of herself and her sense of rights, has been the first to defend the U.S. action.

All this deserves the highest condemnation and only goes to prove the old story that power is all and that to the power hungry the means, however ruthless or mean, is justified by the end it serves.

Ayatollah Khamene'i Receives Lebanese Visitors

LD0201172990 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] This morning, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution and vice-regent [vali-e amr] of the Muslims, received Shaykh 'Adib Haydar, (Abu-Yahya), and (Sayyid 'Ali Husayni), some of the faithful struggling Lebanese brothers. In this meeting the faithful struggling Lebanese brothers submitted a report on the current situation in Lebanon and expressed their complete obedience to the vice regent of the world's Muslims.

Then, in the course of his remarks, the leader of the Islamic revolution referred to the recent events in Lebanon and the clashes between the brothers from the Amal Movement and Hizballah of Lebanon. He expressed his regret at the recent events in Lebanon and graciously said: When such events take place, in the first instance one becomes deeply sorry; second, one wonders whether these brothers pay sufficient attention to the understanding of their interests since they are engaged in such a grave matter.

The vice regent of the Muslims added: Even if some individuals with hostile intentions, who have been influenced by aliens, engage in such behavior, why do those who are sincere also engage in such deeds? In my opinion, those who are sincere and wise should try with all their being and should not allow this state of affairs to continue for even one more hour, let alone allowing it to continue for days.

Referring to the fact that one becomes very sad that there are certain individuals who observe the affairs of the Shiites in Lebanon and make certain judgements that are not worthy of the Shiites, the leader of the oppressed of the world said: The Shiites who only a few years ago were known throughout the world as the agents who expelled the United States and others from Lebanon, should not be regarded in this manner today. What honor can there be in this fratricide?

The leader of the Islamic revolution added: We feel a heavy responsibility on our shoulders regarding these events and what goes on among our Muslim children. These difficulties should be dealt with in a fundamental way. We cannot regard as belonging to us those who oppose this issue and who confront an issue that is a religious injunction.

In conclusion, the vice regent of the Muslims said: I hope Almighty God will bestow success upon all the Muslims and that He also will enable us to know our responsibilities and to act in accordance with them.

Velayati Message to Qatar on Peace Process

LD0101112790 Tehran IRNA in English 1024 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 1, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a message Sunday, informed his

Qatari counterpart 'Abdallah Ibn-Khalifa Al Thani of latest developments in Iran-Iraq peace talks. The message was handed over to Foreign Minister Al Thani by Iran's ambassador to Qatar Seyyed Baqer Sakha'i.

During the meeting Sakha'i outlined Iran's stance on the necessity of implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598 and withdrawal of Iraqi forces to international borders simultaneously with the exchange of POWs.

Al-Thani expressed satisfaction with friendly relations between the two Muslim countries and stressed full enforcement of the Resolution 598.

He also supported efforts of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar for the implementation of the resolution.

Regional issues and bilateral relations were other topics of discussion between the two officials.

Envoy in Cyprus Hands Over Velayati Message

LD2912172389 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 29, IRNA—Iran's charge d'affaires in Nicosia Mohammad Reza Karshenas [name as received] submitted a message from Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to his Cypriot counterprt Yeoryios Iakovou on Friday.

The Cypriot minister announced his country's support for full enforcement of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's efforts in this regard.

Iakovou also voiced his country's support for Iran's recent proposal for simultaneous exchange of POWs and withdrawal of Iraqi forces to the internationally recognized borders.

Turkish Official's Contacts in Tehran Noted

NC0201084890 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Huseyin Celem, who is in Tehran, held talks with Foreign Minister Velayati today. During their talks, the two sides emphasized the need to broaden and strengthen the political, economic, trade, and cultural relations between the two countries. Furthermore, the sides stressed the need to strengthening ECO, which is an economic cooperation organization between Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan.

Deputy Foreign Minister Celem also held talks with Minister of Heavy Industries Nejad-Hoseyniyan. Their talks examined the question of developing economic relations between Turkey and Iran.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Security Forces

LD0201180390 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] This afternoon in a gathering of a number of officials and commanders of security forces from all over the country Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani praised the extensive efforts of the security forces in maintaining the security of cities and villages, fighting against the narcotics smugglers and the counterrevolutionaries, and taking part in the holy defense. In his speech he also said that in the course of the past 10 years, which were among the most exceptional periods in the history of the Muslim Iranian nation, the security forces made great endeavors for safeguarding political, economic, and moral security of the people, and by eliminating counterrevolutionary minigroups and dealing with corrupt people and criminals, with the extensive cooperation of the people, have succeeded in establishing relative security in the country, so much so that despite all the threats and hostilities a state of emergency was not declared in the country even for a single day and all the elections and large popular gatherings among the prerequisites of a free and Islamic government were held in a proper manner.

The president pointed out that merging the security forces from an administrative point of view is definitely in your own interest, as well as in the interest of the country and society. The merger does not mean reductions in the number of those forces, but rather the new reorganization is intended to make savings by eliminating duplications and providing for shortages in operational forces, prevent avoiding responsibilities, provide proper training for the forces, and make better use of capabilities.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added that when this proposed bill is discussed in the Majles that everyone with his scientific, technical, and experienced discussions should try to make sure that the new organization will become a more satisfactory and useful organization for performing the responsibilities to be entrusted to it.

At the end of his speech, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the treatment of the security forces with the people in airports and entrance points of the cities that have recently been introduced as successful and said if the people are dealt with in a spirit of friendship, discipline, and kindness, our grateful people will very soon reveal their appreciation of such efforts.

Nuri Chairs Security Forces Commanders' Meeting

LD0201140390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] A joint meeting of the commanders of security forces from throughout the country, comprising the Islamic Revolution Committee, the police and Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was held at the Interior Ministry this morning in the presence of Mr Nuri, the interior minister.

According to the Central News Unit, in the meeting, Mr Nuri referred to the grave mission of security forces and their efforts to establish public order and security, especially in the country's border regions. He said: Security forces must, by united planning and by raising the level of training in security units, strive to maintain public order in society. Toward that end, security force commanders must exercise careful attention with respect to the work of the personnel under their command.

Stressing the strength of security forces in confronting legal offenders, he said: Strength is established in the light of correct and well-judged behavior and that strength can be achieved by exercising careful attention.

Mr Nuri asked; security forces to decisively confront instances of negligence by exercising careful attention in their missions and to make the necessary effort in that regard. He concluded by conveying to the commanders of security forces the gratitude of his eminence the leader or the sincere efforts of security forces personnel throughout the country.

Afshar Appointed Commander of Basij Resistance

LD0201164690 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, issued a a decree today appointing Mr 'Alireza Afshar as the commander of the resistance forces of Basij [Mobilization] forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC]. The text of the decree of the esteemed leader is as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear brother Mr 'Ali Reza Afshar! On the basis of recommendation of the commander of the IRGC, and in view of your continuous and distinguished experiences in the Corps, I appoint you as the commander of the resistance force of the Basij of the IRGC, so that, according to the stipulated duties and by bringing about appropriate discipline, you may take the initiative toward the complete materialization of the 20-million army; as well as maintaining the necessary vigilance for defending the Islamic revolution and carrying out special missions. I beseech God almighty for you success.
[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i
[Dated] 2 January 1990

Taha'i Appointed Governor General of Semnan

LD3112201989 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Text] The cabinet met this evening under the chairmanship of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president. In addition to discussing important domestic and international events, the cabinet began its study of the generalities of the country's budget for the year 1369 [year beginning 21 March 1990]

In the meeting, at the suggestion of minister of interior, Mr Taha'i was appointed governor general of Semnan and there was praise for the services of Mr Mohammad Reza Bahmani, the previous governor general.

Heroin, Hashish Seized; Traffickers Arrested

LD2612234789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Thanks to efforts of the Islamic Revolution Committees of Azarbayjan-e Bakhtari and Zahedan, more than 20 kg of heroin and 142 kg of hashish were seized from 24 members of three international drug-smuggling gangs and a notorious bandit of the Baluchestan va Sistan region whose name is (Abdossattar).

A Central News Unit dispatch from Zahedan indicates that after arresting three merchants of death and bandits of the Baluchestan va Sistan region, 28 hashish bricks were seized and the drug traffickers were handed over to the judicial authorities, together with the narcotics seized.

Majles Deputies Urge Newspaper's 'Prosecution'

LD3112151689 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 1530 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] One-hundred and thirty-six Majles deputies asked for the prosecution of the newspaper RESALAT in a letter addressed to Ahmad Khomeyni. RESALAT is accused of tampering with Khomeyni's will. The letter's authors claim that RESALAT altered Khomeyni's words and sentences for political purposes. In conclusion, the deputies are asking judicial authorities to take the measures necessary for preventing such occurences.

It seems as if radical Majles deputies are not happy about Ahmad Khomeyni's silence in connection with the storm over Ceausescu's trip to Tehran and the interpellation of the foreign minister and are trying in this way to involve Khomeyni's son in greater confrontation with the leader-president clique.

Pakistan

Editorial Calls U.S. Invasion 'Reprehensible'

BK0201140190 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 22 Dec 89 p 4

[Editorial: "An Outrage"]

[Text] The American invasion of Panama ought to be condemned in the strongest of terms. It is both morally reprehensible and legally indefensible. It is an accepted principle of international law that no country has the right to interfere in the internal affairs of another country. Such principles of non-intervention are well-established and the Americans need no reminder of these. The US Secretary of State, James Baker, attempted to justify the American invasion by saying that "the United States has both the right and, for that matter, the duty, to protect and defend the Panama canal under Article 4 of the Panama Canal Treaty." However, with 13,000 US troops already based in Panama, the canal was never under any threat in the first place. A member of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, Lt. Gen. Tom Kelly himself confirmed on Wednesday that the canal was functioning normally and that there had been no endeavour that the US had discovered to destroy it.

The other reason given by Secretary of State Baker to justify the US invasion was "the fatal shooting of an unarmed US Marine officer by Panamanian Defence Forces personnel, the wounding of another US military officer and the beating of a US Navy lieutenant along with harassment and threats against his wife." Even if these allegations are true, this is a pretty flimsy reason to violate with such impunity the sovereign independence of a Third World country.

Ironically, the US invasion was code-named "Operation Just Cause", though it was in fact anything but just. If it were to be accepted that a country has the right to invade another country in retaliation for the killing or wounding of some of its citizens, then what would there be to prevent any other country that has the capability from doing the same? This is a dangerous argument which, if accepted, would sanction any state interfering wherever it pleased.

The fact is that by ordering the invasion of Panama, President George Bush has proved himself to be as much of a cowboy warrior as President Reagan was in the early years of his administration. If the Reagan Doctrine was based on rolling back communism around the world through covert action, a newly emerging Bush Doctrine seems to be based on advancing the cause of democracy by over military action. In recent weeks, the US has twice militarily intervened in other countries, first, in the Philippines to prop up a democratic government and, now, in Panama to remove a dictatorial one.

That Panamanian strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega was a military dictator accused of being involved in drug trafficking, is not the issue here. The real issue is no country has the right to decide what sort of government another country should have. Neither the Panama Canal Treaty, nor the United Nations Charter, nor the Charter of the Organisation of American States (OAS) gives the US that right, though all of these were cited by Secretary of State Baker in justifying the US action.

Paradoxically, the US invasion of Panama has come at a time when the Soviet Union has refurbished its international image to a very large extent by its hands-off policy toward the historic changes taking place in Eastern Europe, even though these changes will spell the end of communism itself in these countries. By this policy, President Gorbachev has shown the world that the Brezhnev Doctrine of the past is truly dead and buried. President Bush, on the other hand, by his invasion of Panama, has demonstrated that the US still believes in a policy of gunboat diplomacy, at least in the case of those countries that are in no position to defend themselves against a superpower.

The US invasion has rightly been condemned by countries around the world, with some of the harshest criticism coming from countries with generally close ties to Washington. It has also been strongly criticised by governments across Latin America, from Mexico to Brazil. Even Venezuela, which has been a fierce critic of Gen. Noriega, has condemned the US intervention, saying it should be condemned and rejected by all countries respectful of international law. The 101-member countries of the Non-Aligned Movement, meeting in an urgent session at UN headquarters in New York on Wednesday, have also issued a communique condemning the American strike as a violation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty and independence of Panama. Nicaragua's ambassador to the United Nations, Alejandro Serrano, perhaps put it best when he told an emergency session of the UN Security Council that the US action was "an outrage to the conscience of the civilised peoples of the world." History will undoubtedly bear out that judgement.

Spokesman Denies Reports of Involvement in India

BK0201024990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] In Islamabad, a Foreign Office spokesman described as totally incorrect and mischievous the news published in some national newspapers which said that the Government of Pakistan has informed the Indian Government that the Punjab chief minister is instigating the antigovernment elements in Indian Punjab. The spokesman also strongly rejected the allegation that weapons and trained persons are being dispatched across the border into Indian Punjab and Indian-occupied Kashmir.

'Armed Group' Attacks People's Program Office

BK0101155190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] According to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, an armed group attacked the People's Program [Pakistan People's Party-initiated socioeconomic welfare program] office at Shekhupura this morning and set fire to the building, burned records and furniture, broke windows and assaulted office personnel. The attackers also stole the cash kept in the office.

Local workers of the Pakistan People's Party have termed the incident a preplanned action to spread panic and said what is most regretful is that the act of hooliganism occurred only 100 yards away from the district court and near the offices of the deputy commissioner and the superintendent of police.

Minister of State for Housing and Works Mushtaq Ahmad Awan has condemned the attack. In a statement issued in Islamabad prior to his departure for Shekhupura today to assess the situation he demanded that the provincial government immediately arrest the criminals. He said this incident of lawlessness is related to the incidents in Rahimyar Khan, Sideqabad, and (Tarjiha).

Iranian Envoy Presents Credentials to President

LD3012151489 Tehran IRNA in English 1438 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] Islamabad, Dec. 30, IRNA—Pakistan's President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, today termed Iran's position on U.N. Resolution 598 as 'sensible and justified,' and called for its implementation. President Ishaq Khan made the remarks in a meeting with new Iranian ambassador to Islamabad Javad Mansuri who called on him to present his credentials.

He also underlined the need for expansion of Iran-Pakistan cooperation particularly within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), which groups the two countries with Turkey.

On the issue of Afghanistan, the Pakistani president said that Tehran and Islamabad should do their best to find a solution to the issue capable of meeting the wish of the Afghan Muslim people. He promised that Pakistan will persuade the Peshawar based 8-party Pashto alliance, which has formed a government of its own, to unite with other mujahidin groups.

Ghulam Ishaq Khan expressed hope that he could soon pay a visit to the Islamic Republic. The Pakistani head of state was in Tehran last June to attend to attend Imam Khomeyni's funeral.

Mansuri, who earlier served as the Foreign Ministry deputy for Asia-Oceania affairs, arrived in Islamabad last Saturday and formally took up his new assignment as the ambassador of the Islamic Republic a day later.

Earlier, Mansuri handed over a copy of his credentials to Pakistani Deputy Foreign Minister Tanvir Ahmad Khan [name as received].

Sri Lanka

Attempt on Foreign Minister's Life 'Foiled'

BK0201130690 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1250 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] An assassination attempt by the subversives on the life of the minister of foreign affairs and state minister for defense, Ranjan Wijeratne, has been successfully foiled by the Army Operations (?Command). This was revealed at a news conference held in Colombo this morning. The operations (?combined) in the search operations conducted in Colombo City has [passage indistinct].

Further on 'Subversives' Attack

BK0201154690 Colombo International Service in English 1505 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] An assassination attempt by the subversives on the life of the minister of foreign affairs and state minister for defense, Ranjan Wijeratne, has been successfully foiled by the Army Operations Combine [AOC]. This was revealed at a news conference held in Colombo this morning. The operations combine in the search operations conducted in the Colombo city has apprehended several leaders of the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front], including the Colombo district leader, the military leader, and the propaganda leader.

On interrogating the military wing leader, (Dean Peres), who is also an engineering student, the security personnel had been able to locate a penthouse which has been (?in their use). They have recovered 15 kg of explosives in that house, where a women and a man were residing. When the investigating team proceeded to a medical center [words indistinct] for the assassination bid on the life of Mr Wijeratne.

It was also revealed at the news conference that explosives [words indistinct] and a man identified as Roberts was the [words indistinct]. These details were disclosed by the suspects to the AOC. Several of the equipments that could have been used in this operation have also been recovered from another house [words indistinct].

The spokesman from the AOC told the newsmen that the assassination attempt was planned about a month before the death of the JVP leader Rohana Wijeweera. The military [words indistinct] Army personnel said that the murder plan was to be carried out soon after Christmas.

JVP 'Diehards' Plot Discovered

BK0301120090 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Jan 90

[Text] Army intelligence has uncovered and foiled a plot by the last remaining JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] diehards to assassinate Foreign Minister and Minister of State for Defense Ranjan Wijeratne. Senior officials attached to Operations Combine announced in Colombo yesterday.

According to the Army, they have uncovered the plot to assassinate the minister by ramming a TNT laden car against the minister's vehicle somewhere on the Sri Jayewardenepura Highway, apparently when he was commuting to or from Parliament. Investigations have revealed that plans to assassinate Mr Wijeratne had gone on the boards when JVP leader Rohana Wijeweera was still alive. Subversives were prepared to carry out the act any day after 27 December, officials said.

According to officials, investigators attached to Operations Combine at first arrested one (Peres), an engineering undergraduate, reportedly the JVP's military wing leader for the

Colombo area. It was (?he who) gave the information, which led the army to a safehouse in (?Boag) area in the Kaduwela area, where they found explosives and other equipment necessary to blow up a car.

Information gathered from this place subsequently led the Army to the suspected car, which they uncovered parked in the home of a medical student in Maharagama. During the investigation the Army has uncovered more than 75 kg of TNT and various other devices which would have been used to launch the assassination attempt. The car, a Nissan Sunny of the early 80's make, had been brought to Maharagama from the Kandy area, officials said. Officials said that a man by the name of Robert had been selected to hit the minister's vehicle on the Jayawardenepura Highway. It is unclear, which intersection this was to take place. They said Robert apparently was not aware that his car would be packed with explosives. Instructions given to him were to merely stop the minister's vehicle. Unknown to him, the car was to explode on impact with the minister's vehicle. All brains behind the assassination attempt have been arrested, one officer said.

Official Says Indian Troops Must 'Go Immediately'

OW0201173790 Beijing XINHUA in English 1705 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] Colombo, January 2 (XINHUA)—The Sri Lanka Government cannot accept New Delhi's newly-announced deadline of March 31 for the complete withdrawal of Indian troops from the island, presidential adviser Bradman Weerakoon said here today.

The presidential adviser on international affairs told XINHUA in an exclusive interview here that the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in the country must "go immediately."

He said that a Sri Lankan delegation, led by Foreign Minister and State Minister for Defense Ranjan Wijeratne and including himself, will leave for India on Thursday to persuade India to accelerate withdrawal of its troops from Sri Lanka.

"We will try to find out what can be done and what more can be done (about the pullout of the IPKF)," Weerakoon said.

He noted that the Indian troops should leave the country "at least two months" before the summit meeting of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) can be held in Sri Lanka.

The presidential adviser said that his government is prepared to hold the foreign ministers' meeting and the summit meeting of the SAARC on April 14-19 provided that the last of the Indian soldiers was out of the country.

The fifth summit of the SAARC, which groups Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, was scheduled to be held in Colombo last November, but Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa said that Sri Lanka would not host the meeting as long as the IPKF was present in his country.

When asked what the Sri Lankan Government would do if India refused to pull out its troops as early as possible, Weerakoon replied, "I don't think they would refuse."

The Indian Government has said they will withdraw the IPKF from the north and east Sri Lanka as quickly as possible, he said.

India has agreed to pull out its troops from the country by December 31, 1989 in line with an agreement between the two countries.

However, the Indian troops still remain in Jaffna and Trincomalee districts in the north and east.

Weerakoon said that the Sri Lankan Government is "disappointed" at this.

He said the IPKF was sent into the island nation to bring peace to the north and east by disarming all militant Tamil groups, including the most powerful Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

"However, they could not do it," he said. "They could not disarm the LTTE."

Weerakoon said that the LTTE has agreed to cease fire with the government, so it is not necessary for the Indian troops to remain in Sri Lanka. "The IPKF should go," he said.

Indian Forces Vacate Central Sector in Northeast

BK3012083589 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the Indian Peacekeeping Force [IPKF] today vacated the central sector of the Northeast Province. With this, the IPKF has completely pulled out from the entire central sector, south of the Jaffna Lagoon. According to an IPKF press release in Madras, the Peacekeeping Force has already vacated Mannar and Mullaitivu Districts, east of the Jaffna-Kandy Highway.